

New Visitors

The 28th annual furniture give away was held Friday at First Baptist Church in Golden, Colorado. The first photo shows the typical line of new international students at Colorado School of Mines (CSM), extending down the hallway and then returning outside back to the main door and beyond. They were able to claim furniture and household items for free for their apartments. It is a wonderful service to them.



I greeted many of them from Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America. There was a team of us who drove the students and their small items to their apartments. Trucks delivered the rest.

I got a request to take six important (medical and mining) visitors to Project CURE from Uganda on a trip into the Colorado Rocky Mountains as far as the town of Vail. I eagerly accepted, as I often take international students at CSM on trips into the mountains. I know many places that they would like to see.



On Sunday we went west from Golden through Clear Creek Canyon to enjoy its beauty. Lunch was eaten at a Subway restaurant in Idaho Springs across the Creek from an old gold mine museum and launching facility for raft trips on

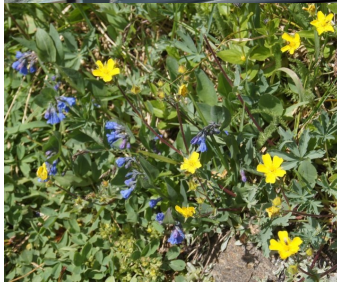


the water. Several of my guests liked the license plate that I have had on various cars for the past 31 years.

The next stop was at the Continental Divide at the top of Loveland Pass, nearly 12,000 feet above sea level. Precipitation falling on one side of the Divide goes to the Atlantic Ocean, and on the other side it goes to the Pacific



Ocean. The Ugandans had never been up that high on the ground. The location provides excellent views of the mountains. This view, taken on a different trip, shows the highway leading up to the Pass on the right. My guests were very busy taking photos. Then they visited snow for the first time in their lives. (I collected some bags of snow to keep cool their left over sandwiches from lunch.) Alpine flowers added color. They were amazed at the very clear water in a nearby pond.



After passing the ski centers of Arapaho Basin and Keystone, we stopped for photos of Dillon Reservoir.

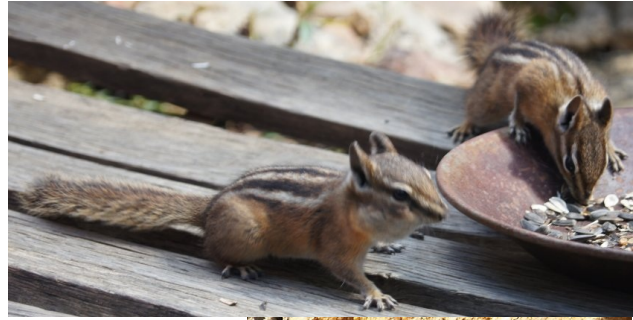


We arrived at Vail at 3:20 PM to visit a Farmers' Market which had food and craft items. But booths were being dismantled ten minutes later. I photographed an Evening Grosbeak bird eating berries. The guests bought some things and had some snacks. We



left Vail at about 4:40 PM.

The traffic became slow long before we reached Idaho Springs. So I did a brief side trip to the site of the Phoenix Gold Mine. It was closed for the day, as expected, but I knew that the chipmunks and golden mantle squirrels (twice as large) would be there eager to take free food from our hands.



The traffic was better after we left the Idaho Springs area. We got off the highway at the Morrison exit and stopped at the entrance to Dinosaur Ridge where I have been a guide for the past 25 years. We looked at the dinosaur bones and footprints in the rocks.



The Ugandan guests were returned to their hotels near the Project C.U.R.E. headquarters and warehouse at about 8:30 PM. During the week they will be investigating how to get more medical supplies shipped to their country. See www.projectcure.org for our program. My usual role there is to keep the boxes of supplies properly organized, ready to be loaded into the 40-foot shipping containers.



Ed Holroyd, 18 August 2014

