



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

## Craighead Institute



## Fall 2012

Dear Lance,

This has been another exciting year so far at the Craighead Institute; exciting projects underway, proud accomplishments, and new friends and supporters. We've been able to move forward with many of our projects despite the inherent difficulties in raising funds during an election year as contentious as this one. Our greatest hope is that after the election our country can re-focus on the issues that really are important: all those related to the health of the environment. If you don't have your health, you don't have much; and if your environment is unhealthy so are you. All of our work is aimed at maintaining healthy ecosystems and native species in balance with human communities.

Although we are not too big to fail (like many institutions in this country) we have at least continued to show that we are not too small to succeed. In fact, our small staff and low operating costs continue to ensure that we have a much higher cost/benefit ratio than most of our contemporaries: almost all of our funds are used directly to benefit conservation solutions on-the-ground. We hope that our conservation planning book will enable many others to do the same in the future. So, please know, that your gift goes a long way towards maintaining healthy populations of native plants, wildlife, and people as part of sustainable, functioning ecosystems.

With best regards,

Lance Craighead



an excerpt from *For Everything There is a Season* by Frank C. Craighead, Jr.

*"As fall days become shorter and cooler, manufacturing of chlorophyll by plants is retarded. Thus, when chlorophyll destruction exceeds production, yellow pigments show up in the leaves, having been previously concealed by the green chlorophyll. In many species, such as Rocky Mountain maple, some huckleberries, and river hawthorn, anthocyanin pigments develop with the onset of cool weather, producing the red and purple*

*colors. The landscape through individual shrubs, herbs, and trees takes on a mosaic of spectacular color. Most aspen leaves are yellow, but some orange; serviceberry are yellow and red; hawthorn are red and orange; rose are yellow and red; snowberry leaves are yellow; geranium are red with some yellow; huckle berry are red and yellow; cherry are yellow and red; baneberry leaves are yellow; and fireweed are red, yellow, and orange... "*

*"Leaves of the aspen and cottonwoods do not produce anthocyanins and therefore turn only yellow, though tannins in the yellow leaves may produce a golden-brown or orange effect. Tannins in red leaves result in a purplish color, as in red-osier. Eventually, with decomposition of the pigments, only tannins remain in the leaves, giving the landscape a distinctly brown aspect."*

*"Frost hastens the arrival of this final stage, followed by defoliation, but cool weather, not frost, is conducive to full development of fall coloring... [P]lants at higher altitudes and latitudes generally [turn color] before the same species lower down. This is due in part to lowering temperatures, which in mountainous regions decrease an average of about 3 degrees for each 1,000 foot increase in elevation."*



Suggested Hikes to Celebrate Fall: Middle Cottonwood (N of BZN) & Buffalo Horn Pass Trail (to Tom Miner)

### **Alpine Plant Project**

April Craighead was able to resurvey half of the plant plots in and around Emerald Lake in Hyalite Canyon. While it was only half, April and a volunteer took measurements for 1,116 plots on the west side of the canyon. April will begin analysis this fall with the help of our colleague Dr. Chris Ray from University Colorado, Boulder. Next summer they will finish the plots and be able to wrap up this project.

August is a very busy season for April and the best time to do field work on pikas; this year has been challenging due to the many fires that have closed areas. They are hoping for the restricted areas to open up (and the fires extinguished) to be able to finish the field work by the end of September.



**Some very Exciting News on the Pika Front:** We have found a melanistic (black pika) in our Gallatin study site. This is a very rare occurrence in American pikas and little is known on their genetics, behavior and life expectancy. April will be setting up a non-invasive hair snaring project and collect fecal samples for genetic analysis. (Thanks to Becka and Steve Barkley for initially finding this pika and alerting April to it). [More on Pika Research.](#)

### **Welcome to the board, Tom Fiddaman!**

Craighead Institute is pleased to announce its newest member joining the board this past summer. Tom works with Ventana Systems, where he develops software and consulting methods that help people to

### **The Pikas Need Your Help! ...and so do we.**

Please consider giving a gift to the Craighead Institute that helps both our pika research and our climate change programs.

understand complex systems and make robust decisions. He has done extensive energy-economic modeling, bringing together industry, governments, and environmental organizations. We welcome Tom with great enthusiasm and look forward to getting to know him better.



Thank you for your dedication Tom!



*Donate Today to Protect Their Future!*

[Click here to Donate online.](#)



Telephone: 406.585.8705

201 S. Wallace Ave. Ste. B2D, Bozeman, MT 59715

Web: [www.craigheadinstitute.org](http://www.craigheadinstitute.org)

Contact us: [info@craigheadinstitute.org](mailto:info@craigheadinstitute.org)

---

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Craighead Institute  
201 S. Wallace, Suite B2D  
Bozeman, Montana 59715  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

