

Autumn Leaves

Each year at the end of September Terry and Trudy Thomson offer to international students at Colorado School of Mines a Saturday afternoon trip into the mountains to view the bright yellow autumn colors of aspen trees. This year we had 7 of us Americans as drivers and hosts. There was one man from Brazil. Everyone else was Chinese. Our route included all of the stops of previous years, but in reverse order. That may have been a minor planning mistake because we encountered a major traffic delay on the Interstate-70 expressway into the mountains between Floyd Hill and Idaho Springs. Eventually we reached our first planned stop - a steep mountain stream.



Terry and Chinese friends



Gathering beside the stream

Brian describes the rocks.



The mountain stream



Shuangfeng records beautiful trees.



The trees in her view.



Returning to the vans

Our next stop was part way up the mountain slopes to an overlook.



Yellow aspens among evergreen trees.



Qiao and Xin recording their twins.





After many photos we gathered around a picnic table for mid-afternoon snacks.



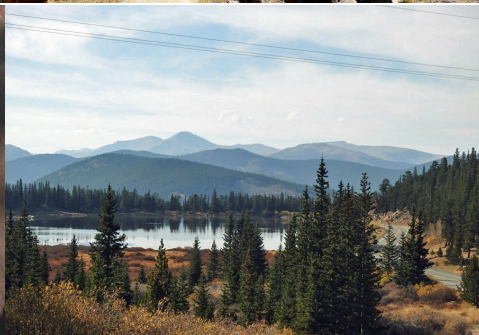
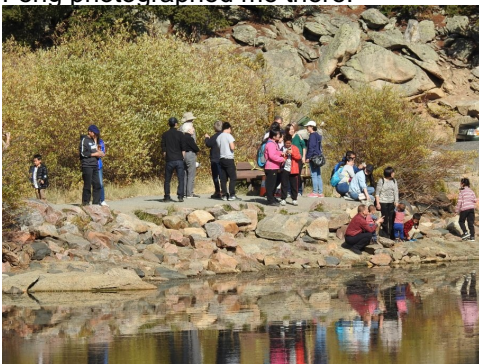
Our group photo

Snack time



Feng photographed me there.

Then we went up to Echo Lake.



As expected, a small flock of Canada (Gray) Jays was eager for a free snack. We had been at the far side of this lake. Inside Echo Lake Lodge.

Our final stop was at our traditional valley overlook with climbable rocks.



This was an unusually warm day for 29 September up high in the mountains about 3.4 kilometers above sea level, though the lower plains near Denver were much colder. We Americans enjoyed the fellowship with our Chinese and Brazilian guests, showing them some of the beauty to be enjoyed in our region of Colorado.

by Dr. Ed Holroyd, with additional photos by Terry and Shuangfeng.

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