Freshwater Forum 50 & Benthette Reunion 2026 Agenda

Friday, August 21

1 – 6 pm: Check in at the billy barr community center (bbcc); pick up name tags, printed copies of the Reunion Agenda, t-shirts, and lists for the Scavenger Hunt, settle in to cabins
4:30 – 6 pm – Happy hour at the tent area outside bbcc
6 – 7 pm: Dinner (bbcc) Slide show of contributed photos will be projectedl during all meals
7:30 PM – Free time to reconnect, organize No Talent Show acts

Saturday, August 22

7 – 8 am: Breakfast (bbcc)
8:30 am – noon – Story-Telling activities including Icebreaker Circle, Affinity Group Breakouts, Outdoor Coffee Break, Rotating Story Stations, Open-ended Full Group Sharing, and Closing Reflections– organized by Margot Buckelew (bbcc and outside)
Noon – 1 pm – lunch (bbcc)
1:30 pm – billy barr slide show: "Gothic in Winter" (bbcc)
2:30 – 4:30 PM – Optional outdoor activities:

- Scavenger hunt
- Kiddos of all ages do stream bug assessment at the East River with Bobbi
- Explore on your own (go hiking or explore Crested Butte)
- Rehearse for the No Talent Show (always optional!)

4:30 – 6 pm: Happy Hour (bbcc and tent area) While enjoying libations and catching up with other Benthettes, on designated areas/white boards in the bbcc and conference room, revisit the Rotating Story Stations from the morning session and add your reflections.
N*ote – you can revisit these Rotating Story Stations during any free time over the weekend*
6 – 7 pm: Dinner (bbcc)
7:30 – 9:00 pm: "Benthettes' Greatest Hits" – No Talent Show. Organized by Marge Penton and Tracy Smith (bbcc)

Sunday, August 23

7 – 8 am: Breakfast (bbcc)
8:30 am – Bobbi – "Stream of Consciousness – The Ecology of Place" How have 50 years of Stream Ecology at RMBL contributed to the Foundations of Stream Ecology? (Recognizing the contributions of all Benthettes) (bbcc)
9:15 am – Break out session – Six small groups by topic (outside the bbcc at picnic tables):

- Wormy *Baetis* group
- Team Egg/dispersal group
- Grazer-algae/ Didymo aka Rock Snot group
- Water rights/biomonitoring group
- Predator-prey/ non-consumptive effects group
- Climate change/disturbance group

Brainstorm your research questions, how you came up with your questions, what you discovered, and ideas for future questions

Alternative activities will be provided for non-scientist family members, including kids of all ages (arts and crafts, games, skits, treasure hunt to build stream critter puzzles, family hikes)
10:00 am – Coffee Break (outside)
10:30 am - Kara Cromwell – Introducing Rocky Mountain Rivers, our new non-profit. What are our aspirations for the next 50 years?
11:00 am - Discussion of ideas for guiding the future of Rocky Mountain Rivers
11:30 am - Science breakout groups transcribe discoveries onto sticky notes to arrange on a white board in the bbcc; how did one discovery lead to the next? Write how you came up with your questions and ideas for future questions on designated whiteboards in the bbcc
N*ote – you can revisit the white board stations during any free time over the weekend*
Noon – 1 pm – lunch (bbcc)
1 pm – 4:30 pm – Optional outdoor activities:

- Hike to a stream site to sample bugs with Bobbi (who can still identify them?)
- 1 - 2:30 pm - Tour of Gothic (Jeni Blacklock - RMBL Executive Director)
- RMBL365 open house from 1 - 3 pm in Crested Butte
- Explore on your own (Individual hikes, explore Crested Butte)
- Scavenger Hunt, continued – winners to be announced at dinner

4:30 – 6 pm: Happy hour (bbcc tent area) – Turn in Scavenger Hunt sheets. While enjoying libations and catching up with other Benthettes, record your thoughts from the storytelling session and the science brainstorm session on designated areas in the bbcc
6 – 7 pm: Dinner (bbcc)
7:30 – 9 pm – Music – Benthette jam session. Everyone bring instruments! (Location tbd)
Continue adding your reflections at designated areas in the bbcc

Monday, August 24

7 – 8 am: Breakfast (bbcc)
9 AM–11 AM – Benthettes pack up and prepare to travel home. **All cabins must be vacated by 11 AM.**