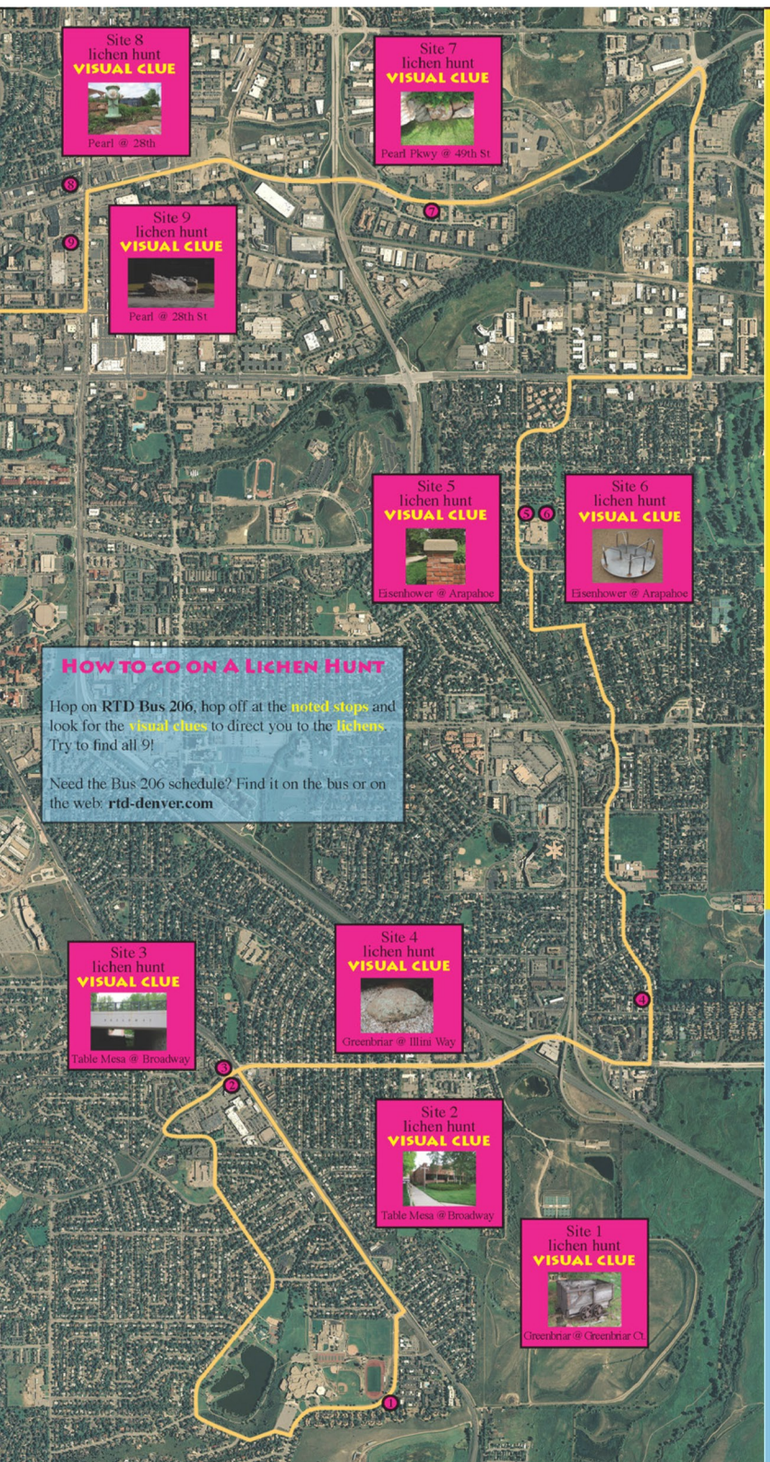
Here is the front and back of A Self-Guided Lichen Hunt brochure that you can download.
You'll need legal size paper (8.5" x 14")




## How to go on a Lichen Hunt

Hop on **RTD Bus 206**, hop off at the **noted stops** and look for the **visual clues** to direct you to the **lichens**. Try to find all 9!

Need the Bus 206 schedule? Find it on the bus or on the web: **rtd-denver.com**

Today, people in Boulder ride the bus at twice the national average, walk three times as much and bicycle at 21 times the national average. - bouldercolorado.gov

*Art that provides a viewer with riveting portrayals of nature or society serves to re-engage a person with the physical world; this is where positive change has a possibility to take place. If one does not love the world, that same person will not imagine a need to protect it.*
- from Artist Manifesto by Kim Abeles

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT CARS: One minute of idling produces more carbon monoxide than the smoke from 3 packs of cigarettes. - enginesoff.com

Refueling during cooler periods of the day, such as mornings and evenings, can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone.

Topping off the tank releases gas fumes into the air.

Combine your errands into one trip. Starting a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour causes up to five times more pollution than starting up when the engine is warm. - aircarecolorado.com

This exhibition was made possible by these generous organizations brought together by:
EcoArts Connections
Schramm Foundation
University of Colorado Herbarium
Our Anonymous Angel
Boulder Arts Commission
Boulder Dairy Center for the Arts
KGNU
Xcel Energy
Glacier Ice Cream
Jim Morris Environmental T-Shirt Co.
Museum of Nature & Human Activity
Nature's Own
Boulder Outlook Hotel & Suites
Colorado Creative Industries

# A SELF-GUIDED LICHEN HUNT

FOR FAMILIES, STUDENTS, CLUBS, AND THE CURIOUS

USING BOULDER'S RTD

**BUS ROUTE 206**

This lichen hunt is part of the exhibit

*the invisible connectedness of things*

ecoartsconnections.org cumuseum.colorado.edu

*Mass Commute* celebrates people who use alternative transportation. The stickers are given free as a reward at each venue. Shown here is one of the venues for the exhibit, the Boulder Bicycle Testing facility for Bicycle - Air Care Colorado.

Kim Abeles, *Hatching/Hatching* (2011, video and digital images of abalones's eyes and tentacles embedded within digital prints of enlarged lichen, 8' x 16')

I first learned about **lichens as bio-monitors** in a conversation with Pat Kociolek, Director of the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, and was led to a small yet powerful book by James N. Corbridge and William A. Weber, *A Rocky Mountain Lichen Primer*. Many of the artworks generated in this exhibition are directly inspired by Weber's personal and passionate interest in lichen, and when one begins to look at lichen, one never sees the world the same again. It is the stalwart life of the lichens as well as their beauty that draws us forward to see everything in life related to their expression.

The title of the exhibition refers to a quote in the introduction of Weber's *Lichen Primer* about the web of ... biodiversity and the importance of all aspects of the Earth's ecosystems, large and small. The quote is from Dan O'Neill's book, *Firecracker Boys*, and references the historical change in our understanding about the environment "...It was based on a more holistic concept of environmental protection, which recognized that insidious degradation was possible because of "the invisible connectedness of things."
- Kim Abeles

Each exhibition venue includes Abeles' lichen puzzles and portraits of lichens with the stick behind them removed digitally. Shown below is a detail view of the venue at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, with lichen transparencies bordering the entrance to the Walter Orr Roberts Trail.

GO ON A **LICHEN HUNT**

SEE REVERSE

"In an effort to turn the proverbial lemons into lemonade, Los Angeles-based artist Kim Abeles is turning air pollution into art.

"For her current exhibit in Boulder, Colorado, Kim worked with middle school students to capture and create art from smog. They placed stencils on white dinner plates, and placed those plates on the school's roof. Seven months later the stencils were removed. Left on the plates were smog images composed of particles that had settled out of the atmosphere.
Unappetizing, yet beautiful."
- Lisa Gardiner in *Symbiartic* for Scientific American

1 to 7: Manhattan Middle School students flaunt their smog plates which, inspired by Los Angeles artist Kim Abeles, they created using photographs taken from Boulder's air on the school's roof. Smog plates and Abeles exhibited at Manhattan Middle School of Arts and Academics

## LICHENS AS BIO-MONITORS

Lichens, as bio-monitors, indicate air quality as they absorb from their environment both the air and moisture. Because of this miracle, they are collected and studied in the lab to compare carbon, lead and other pollutants in specific locations. They can be found on rocks and trees for instance, and mostly we walk or drive past them, overlooking their spectacular structure, colors and longevity.

## *the invisible connectedness of things*

1 to 7: Kim Abeles, *Mass Commute* (2011, Acrylic on Mylar Stencil on Ceramic Plate, 12" x 12"), smog and soil from Boulder Air on porcelain plate), Hatching/Hatching (2011, print)

**January 17 - August 8, 2012**

*the invisible connectedness of things* is a multi-media exhibit created by visual artist Kim Abeles, commissioned by EcoArts Connections and co-presented with and at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History with satellite displays at Enviro1est-Air Care Colorado, Manhattan Middle School, and Spark: UCAR Science Education at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

This exhibition brings together smog, lichens, kids and adults, to inspire us to ride the bus, bike, skB, carpool or walk.