



PEAK & PRAIRIE

Rocky Mountain
Chapter of the
Sierra Club

Volume XXXVI—No. 4

August/September 2002

Annual Rocky Mountain Chapter Retreat September 20–22, 2002 YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

Join us at the Annual Rocky Mountain Chapter Retreat, a wonderful and relaxing weekend of diverse recreational opportunities and workshops at the YMCA of the Rockies' Estes Park Center, near the town of Estes Park and one of our favorite National Parks, Rocky Mountain National Park. There are many opportunities for outdoor recreation with hiking trails, swimming, nature programs, and mountain biking trails on the property. Several of these opportunities can also be found nearby at Rocky Mountain National Park. All this recreation will be wrapped around a weekend of diverse workshops and evening entertainment. Renew your spirit, mind and body!

On Friday night, we will be featuring a special program on World Trade Issues by Dan Seligman from the National Sierra Club in Washington D.C. and a social gathering to acquaint us with all of our RMC retreat participants and program leaders. On Saturday evening, we will entertain you with food, drink, local artists from Swallow Hill Music Association, and the specialty of the

evening, a contest and entertaining talent show entitled, "The Sierra Club Follies". Please lend us your jokes, musical talent, dancing, and storytelling abilities!

This year our meals will be provided by the staff at the Estes Park Center. All meals will be served buffet style, with choices for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians.

The Retreat begins with a Friday night dinner at 5:00, followed by the special program, socializing and games. Saturday's activities begin at 7:00 a.m., and include meals, five workshop sessions, live music, socializing, and the Sierra Club Follies. After more workshop sessions on Sunday morning, we're scheduled to leave after lunch. For a complete description of the workshops and the schedules please go to our website at www.rmc.sierraclub.org, or call the office at 303-861-8819.

Some of the workshops featured:
National Renewable Energy Campaign

*RMC Renewable Energy Campaign
Colorado River Workshop
Mountain Biking
Bicycle Tune-up and Repair
Letter Writing Workshop
Sustainable Agriculture
What is Inner City Outings?
Full Moon and Family Hikes
Wildlife Observation/Education
Compass/Orienteering Activities
International Trade
Restoring Wolves to the Rockies
Forest Fire Management*



We hope to see you for some outdoor activities, environmental education, and most of all, fun. Please register today before this weekend of relaxation and environmental awareness fills up!

See registration form on pg. 15.

ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE *Save Trees and Money!*

Tell Us How YOU Want to Receive the Peak & Prairie

The Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce that members now have the opportunity to receive its bi-monthly newsletter, Peak & Prairie, in printed form, electronic form, or both.

MONETARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS VERSUS BENEFITS

Many people don't realize it costs the Sierra Club over \$30,000 per year to send Peak & Prairie to the 20,000 members of the Sierra Club in Colorado. If a lot of members elect to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we can save a lot of money (and trees!) and put that money to work in other ways to help protect the environment in Colorado.

REQUESTING ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE

If you choose to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we will notify you via electronic mail each time a new issue of Peak & Prairie is available on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's web site – usually several days before the printed version is mailed. The notification will include a link for your browser which will take you directly to the new issue of Peak & Prairie on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's web site, which you will be able to view in Adobe Acrobat Reader format or download for later viewing.



Please visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/deliveryoptions.shtml to select your Peak & Prairie delivery options today.

Join the 404+ RMC members (approx. 2%) who have chosen to receive the electronic version of Peak & Prairie instead of the printed version!

ADOBE ACROBAT READER

Acrobat Reader is a free viewer available for a variety of operating systems from Adobe Systems Incorporated at www.adobe.com. If you don't already have Acrobat Reader on your computer, you will need to install it the first time you try to view the electronic version of Peak & Prairie.

NOTE: Some older computers may not be capable of running Acrobat Reader or viewing the electronic version of Peak & Prairie. You may want to verify that your computer is capable of displaying Peak & Prairie in electronic form before you stop receiving the printed version. If you stop receiving the printed version and later change your mind, you can visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pandp/deliveryoptions.shtml to start receiving the printed version again.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Rocky Mountain Chapter office at 303-861-8819 or via electronic mail at chapter.assistant@rmc.sierraclub.org.

YOU Can Help Elect Pro-Environment Candidates

by Greg Casini, Deb Robison, & Kirpal Singh

Election season is upon us, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter is gearing up by being the only Chapter in the nation to start an election action committee.

What is an Election Action Committee (EAC)? It's a group of trained volunteers who 1) get involved in pivotal campaigns to elect pro-environment candidates and 2) raise the level of the environment as an issue in the campaigns.

In such a critical election year active support for pro-environment candidates is essential!

You can help the EAC in a number of different ways: serving on the planning committee, becoming a "Spark Plug" trained to coordinate campaign work in pro-environment candidate's campaigns as a Sierra Club representative, or serving as a "worker bee" supporting the efforts of the Spark Plugs in campaigns.

We are preparing a proposed list of target campaigns and will be recruiting volunteers to become spark plugs in August. Spark Plug training will cover: volunteer recruitment and management, managing a letter writing campaign, running phone banks, and walking precincts. The training date will be August 24 from 1-5 p.m. at the Meadows Branch of the Boulder Public Library.

Once the campaign season officially starts, our Spark Plugs will connect with campaigns and determine what kind of support is needed, and then organize volunteers to accomplish those tasks. We hope that you will join us at some level to lend your time and talent to the environmental movement in this pivotal election year.

To find out more, please contact Susan LeFever at 303.861.8819, or slefever@vanion.com.



Voter Education Volunteers getting ready to hand out literature at Wash Park in Denver.

SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE

for Oct./Nov. 2002 issue

Monday,
August 26, 2002

E-mail submissions,
as MS Word or Wordperfect
attachments (*send info. as
an attached document, rather than
including it in body of e-mail*), &
photos to accompany articles
as **.tif** attachment if possible
(.jpg or .bmp OK), 150 dpi, to
editor@rmc.sierraclub.org
or send to chapter office.

Articles:
500 words or LESS

Letters to the Editor:
200 words or LESS

Peak & Prairie

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LISTSERVERS

How Do I Join A List?

Send an e-mail message to listserv@lists.sierraclub.org. In
the body of the message, put the command

SUBSCRIBE listname yourname

Example: Subscribe RMC-CONS-COMM Jane Doe

The example above would subscribe Jane Doe to the Rocky
Mountain Chapter conservation committee discussion list.

After you send in your subscription request, you'll get a
message back asking you to confirm your e-mail subscription
message (this is to discourage spammers who subscribe to lists
solely to harvest addresses). Merely respond to that message
with the word OK, and you're on the list.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Greg Casini
RMC Chair

Chapter Launching Long-Term Energy Campaign

Currently, Colorado generates almost all of its electricity by burning fossil fuels, which pollute our air and water and cause health problems. Colorado's public and private lands are under threat from development for natural gas and coal bed methane extraction.

Meanwhile, Colorado is one of the best states for renewable energy resources: solar, wind, and geothermal. We have a well-educated citizenry and a growing high-tech industry. We are home to the largest renewable energy research facility in the world: the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. With these resources, Colorado has the potential to lead the nation in the development of clean, renewable energy technologies.

Early in 2002, The Rocky Mountain Chapter held a strategic planning weekend and decided to make energy issues our priority. Based on this work, we are launching a ten-year campaign in Colorado to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

CAMPAIGN GOALS

- Derive 20% of Colorado's electricity from non-hydro renewable sources by 2020
- Decrease Colorado's per capita electricity consumption by 20% by 2010
- Increase the effectiveness of the Sierra Club and its local groups in Colorado

PROGRAM AREAS

The Sierra Club's strengths in Colorado are our name recognition, our grassroots membership, and our experience in working to change public policy in the legislature and in municipalities. Our campaign will capitalize on our strengths and complement the work of other environmental organizations.

Our program includes educational and advocacy activities aimed at different communities: public, businesses, utilities, local governments, and the state legislature. Year one activities are designed to build a constituency for renewable energy and energy efficiency, while following years leverage our actions into effective public policy and commitment from individuals, businesses and utilities.

We will involve our local groups in every aspect of the campaign, including enlisting the support of local organizations and businesses, and attending public hearings and advocating for policy changes. The visibility of this campaign will increase our activist base, and we will provide volunteers with training in media, organizing and energy issues.

CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS – 2002 TO 2004

- **Public Education:** We will build demand for renewable energy and energy efficiency with educational programs about the costs of our current energy system and the benefits and opportunities for change. The public will be encouraged to make personal commitments, and to expect the same from businesses, utilities, and public policy makers.
- **Business Education:** We will develop a "20/20 Awards" program for businesses that conserve energy and promote or use renewable energy, and present awards in year two. We will create a Business Energy Roundtable for business leaders to discuss and promote good energy practices.
- **Utility Education:** We will continue to encourage Xcel Energy to build the Lamar Wind Farm. Working with local groups, we will influence Rural Electric Associations and public utilities to increase support for efficiency and renewables.
- **Local Government Education:** We will develop sample language for Cities and Counties on energy efficiency standards (govt. buildings and building codes) and work for their adoption.
- **Legislative Education:** We will continue to educate state lawmakers about the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency and work with other organizations to pass effective legislation in Colorado on State Buildings Energy Efficiency, Renewable Portfolio Standards, Systems Benefit Charges, and Net Metering.

BE A PART OF OUR CHAPTER'S SUCCESS

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Help us make Colorado the nation's leader in renewable energy & energy efficiency! Current projects include: developing informational materials, community outreach, website development and organizing educational tours of renewable energy sites. For more information, contact Cindy Johnson at 303-741-8525 or Greg Casini at 303-861-2844.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Are you a people person? Help build the Sierra Club as our Membership Chair. Plan new member orientations, help with mailings, promote membership at events and activities, and develop your own creative ideas for recruiting and retaining members. Contact Greg Casini at 303-315-3309 or greg.casini@rmc.sierraclub.org.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Do you want a nice easy task without too much responsibility? Do you have available time weekdays between 9-5? The Chapter office sends out large mailings about every six weeks, and we could use your help. It's a fun and easy way to help us reach out to members and the public about important environmental issues. Or, if you'd like a more regular schedule, you can help with front office and reception on a weekly basis. Since it's sometimes hard to park downtown, public transit is your best bet. Call Libby Tart at 303-861-8819, or ltart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

OUTINGS VICE CHAIR

Be a part of the growing RMC Outings Program. Need help with compiling a leaders list, activating a Metro Denver Outings Program, and marketing outings to the chapter. Contact Patricia Berman at 303-691-9255 or outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.



Report from the Legislature

The 2002 session of the Colorado General Assembly was a surprising session for the environment. We scored some major victories, and stopped most of the bad bills, but we lost some bills at the last minute that we had hoped to win.

In the positive column, the Legislature passed landmark water legislation that will make it easier to keep water in a stream. Legislation pertaining to the disposal of mustard gas at the Pueblo Army Depot and the disposal of radioactive waste near Cañon City passed. Transportation legislation passed the last day of the session in the last hour that including an unprecedented commitment to transit. Very few bad bills passed this year, which is unusual, even for an election year. A bill to require utilities to have net-metering programs started out bad, but was improved before passage by limiting its scope.

Despite these significant legislative triumphs, the 2002 legislative session will also be remembered for significant bills that failed. Although several important growth-related bills were introduced, the legislature failed to pass any meaningful growth legislation. The legislature also was unable to pass legislation requiring Xcel to develop renewable energy sources and another bill to clean up three, large, coal-fired power plants. Legislation protecting citizens from suits designed to limit public participation (SLAPP Suits) was amended so much, it lost even the support of its sponsor. In their attempts to pass a balanced budget, legislators raided some key environmental programs, like the endangered species fund. One of the biggest disappointments of the session was the failure to even introduce a bill to ban cyanide heap-leach mining.

The Legislature did defeat some bad bills, including one to significantly hinder the initiative process and the worst of the bills designed to make it easier to kill bears. Several attempts to limit local government regulation under the guise of "property rights" were attempted, but none passed.

This session, the environmental lobby was especially strong. We had professional lobbyists from half a dozen environmental organizations, and well organized grassroots efforts to write and call representatives on environmental bills. By working together we made a big difference!



Susan LeFever
RMC Lobbyist

THE
FUTURE
OF ENERGY
DOESN'T HAVE TO
BE THIS BLACK.



There are alternatives to soot, smog, and smokestacks. Today, proven technologies are available to address our energy needs efficiently, without compromising either our health or our environment. Support a brighter future for energy. Join the Sierra Club.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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Card Number _____

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REGULAR	☐ \$39	☐ \$47
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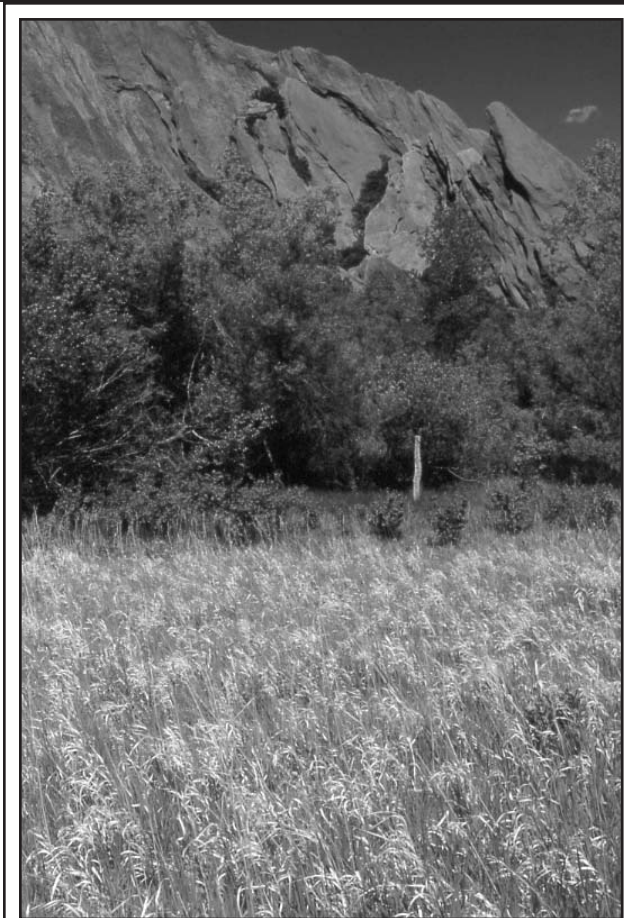
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Club Members Take a Hike through Roxborough Plant Life



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer
Above, botanist Graham Roy leads a Club hike at Roxborough State Park. Hikers are looking at an exhibit about poison ivy.
Below, non-native smooth grame grass dominates the foreground.



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer

Plight of the Prairie Dog

words & photos by Sandy Nervig

*The short grass high plains is where we've lived for thousands of years
Settlers move west – the government says we're a "pest"*

*They poison us in our burrows by the thousands
The Bison are gone, American Indians too
Who will be left?*

Our habitat is fragmented by farms, ranches and sprawl that brings roads

*People using lethal poisons and gasses that are still killing us off
Now bulldozers bury us alive
Vehicles kill us as we follow our instincts to disperse crossing roads
We're shot for sport
and those settlers brought the plague
Who will be left?*

*A few try to help us – take us to open spaces on the prairie
But with so much against us, will that be enough?!*

Will we be left?

BUSTER'S TALE

by Tom Preble

Something is wrong. Returning home up our long country driveway the overview of our ranch house and yard disturbs me. Something's amiss that I can't quite finger. Then I spot it. Two bowls are beside the garage apron that none of us had put there. I find a note left by some friends from Ft. Collins:

"We found this starving cat while visiting the Zoo. Zoo folks said they'd; 'take the stray to be put to sleep'. Too nice a cat for that. We can't take him home to Ft. Collins with us and thought you might like him."

I'm annoyed. "If we wanted a cat, we'd have a cat", I say crisply to my wife, Ilene. Striding around outside with a stern countenance and sharp gaze, I find the stray. Rack of hide-covered bones with pelvis prominent, a huge black cat regards me apprehensively. I give him a level, irked stare. The cat looks down in submission, his wasted, sere muscles tensed for flight. Slowly and quietly lowering to my haunches, I call to him. Hesitantly, silently, he comes. He's all black and two feet long from nose to rump, not including tail. Quite a large tom-cat, emaciated or not. He rubs my hand and starts purring. Getting up, I turn on my heel and return to the house. Such a tough guy I am. Moments later I return to ply him with a can of tuna.

The cat seems to prefer the company of people and our kids love him. Jessie our four year old, announces without hesitation that she shall call him "Buster" and so Buster he is. Ilene rustles up a cat carrier and takes Buster to the vet to get "fixed". (Well, broken, actually when you think about it...) As Buster calmly begins to exit the cat carrier on the examination table the vet exclaims; "My God! When does it stop? From the zoo, you say? Maybe he's an escaped panther!" We are told that Buster is young and really quite healthy though starved. His healthy weight we soon discover, is twenty pounds. Buster does have a problem however. He sheds constantly. Consider the surface area of a twenty pound cat.

Banished from the house, Buster accepts being an outside cat with aplomb. He is my constant companion while I do ranch chores. Under the tractor or truck with a grease gun or changing oil? Expect purring head-butts from a large silent fellow. I find that any ranch chore I do, Buster shadows me. Friends tease me about being a "cat person". "No, no", I explain:

"Look at the size of him! One Halloween I put a cat costume on the dog and we haven't been able to get it off."

Years pass and other barn cats are acquired. They all get along because of big, gentle Buster. They use him as a sofa and he is the hub of the wheel of their cat society. Our cats may not all like each other but they all love Buster who is invariably gentle.

We rescue a tiny orange kitten. Her new surroundings and the hissing barn cats leave her rigidly afraid and confused. Fearing she might be run off, we find Buster lying on his back in the sun and place the kitten on his chest. Without a moment's hesitation he enfolds her in huge paws and begins purring and licking her ears.

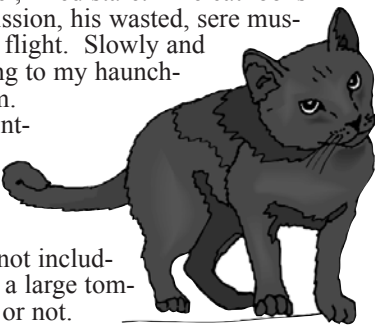
A chicken once came and crowded Buster away from his food bowl. Stupid chicken. Cats are pointy in five different places! With one swipe of a huge paw, Buster could loft that chicken sailing in an arc, like a feathered volleyball over the roof of the barn. A puff of plumage slowly drifting to earth would be the only evidence that the chicken had even existed! Buster just sits and watches the chicken eat.

An old cat now, his mousing days are done. Buster is a danger only to miller moths and grasshoppers. Still my constant outside companion, I notice his breathing has a wheezy rumble. The vet says no pneumonia, just an old cat with a cold. We give him some pills and set him up in the cat's dog house with a heating pad under his bed.

I never was a cat person. I'd always looked upon animals that don't earn their keep on the ranch as a needless burden. A realization dawns that Buster isn't just an animal. He's a friend and my friends don't have to earn their keep with me. In this often nettlesome world, our animal friends just love us. They're not mad because they have to live outside or miffed if my busy-ness means they're ignored for days at a time. There is no guile to their love. "Let me be near you", a kind word, a touch, is all they want.

The wife and kids are already asleep. I finish up my work and close down the house for the night. Outside, the barnyard glows softly under cold blue-white starlight and a silvery, curving crescent moon, riding high. I check on Buster and the kitties that still use him as a couch. Satisfied all is well and slipping into bed quietly next to a sleeping Ilene, I drift off with a smile. Buster is warm tonight. He'll be okay.

Tom Preble
lvbranch@worldnet.att.net



Superfund Site Cleaning Up?

by Sandy Harrocks, *RMC Rocky Mountain Arsenal Subcommittee*

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) Subcommittee has been watchdogging the continuing remediation of this superfund site. Several items of concern have arisen over the past few months, including the following issues:

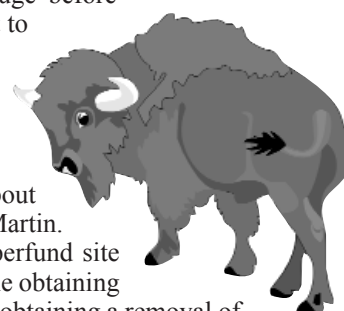
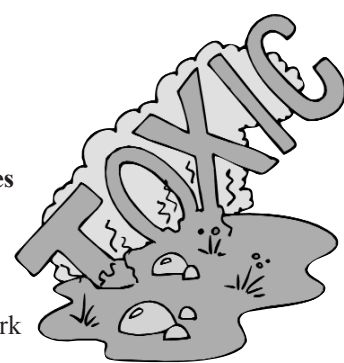
- **Possible change for acceptable groundwater level of DIMP**, a chemical contaminate from RMA which moved into the groundwater on the north side of the arsenal. The current standard is 8 parts per billion (ppb). The Army and Shell would like this changed to 400 ppb. This will be decided in December.
- **Reinstatement of wildlife tours on RMA** that were cancelled due to the discovery of sarin bomblets two years ago. Our subcommittee has been against tours of this site while the clean-up takes place because of our concern about possible ordnance discoveries while visitors on site. School children were visiting RMA when the first sarin bomblet was discovered. They were not evacuated.
- **Lack of adequate alternative technology use in clean-up** of one contaminated location as directed by the Record of Decision (ROD). A technology supported by Shell Oil was tried but did not work. Now we're hearing that this requirement may be bypassed.
- **Transfer of a section of RMA property to Commerce City.** This is an area between 800 - 900 acres along Quebec St. The sale of this land was part of the ROD, however, it has been difficult to get adequate testing of this area completed to ensure that contamination is not transferred. Also, we were very concerned about the idea that 'commercial' enterprises that could locate there could include daycare centers and elderly facilities.



- **Continued hesitance by the oversight parties to ensure immediate notification when contaminates have possibly been released.**

The latest occurrence we are aware of involved a blue fog over a clean-up area that workers were greeted to when arriving for work one morning. Some became sick, but by the time the regular staff arrived the fog had cleared. No testing was done to determine what the release was or its cause.

- **Long-term plans for transfer of RMA to a wildlife refuge.** We wish to keep tabs on this in order to make comments and to ensure that individual areas on this site are not transferred to the 'refuge' before the total clean-up is completed. We also want to watchdog the additional animal species that we have heard are being considered for importation onto this site: e.g. bison, prong-horn antelope, etc.



In addition to these items we're also concerned about the resignation of the national EPA ombudsman, Bob Martin. Without his help many citizen groups working on superfund site clean-ups throughout the nation will have a difficult time obtaining and effective clean-up. Mr. Martin was instrumental in obtaining a removal of the Shattuck Superfund Site in Denver. He had also begun hearings on the clean-up of RMA and the transfer of the section of land to Commerce City.

RMA is a 27 square mile superfund site located north of old Stapleton Airport and Montbello. Both chemical warfare agent and herbicides were produced there over a period of about 40 years by the U.S. Army and Shell Oil Company. A 'clean-up' of this site is currently underway. The RMA Subcommittee of the Conservation Committee has been watchdogging this remediation for 10 years. New committee members are always welcome. Anyone interested in joining should contact Sandy Horrocks at 303 470-1352. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of each month.

Drought 2002: Water District Wants Limits

by Melanie Brubaker Mazur, *The Durango Herald Staff Writer*
edited by Karen Partak, *Peak & Prairie News Editor*

May 24 – Lake Durango Water Co. has proposed restrictions that would hold its customers to eight hours a week of outside watering, making it the latest Southwest Colorado utility company to restrict water use. "We're not in good shape, like everybody else," Bob Johnson, president of the company, said Thursday. "But with the restrictions, we expect to make it all right."

If the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approves the conservation measures, which restrict watering to four hours a day, two days a week, the company should have enough water to make it through the summer, he said. But if this winter's dry spell continues into next winter, there could be problems, he said. "Until we have snow, we don't have anything," he said.

Lake Durango's overall capacity in a normal year is 1,000 acre feet of water. The lake currently has 540 acre feet of water, and customers normally use 350 to 400 acre feet each year. "Without water conservation by our customers and a water curtailment plan we may be left with only 100 acre feet due to evaporation and use by Feb. 1, 2003," Johnson wrote. If approved, as is expected, the restrictions would take effect June 15. In addition to limiting outside watering, the restrictions prohibit washing cars and filling swimming pools and decorative ponds. Livestock tanks can still be filled. A first offense for violating the restrictions would be a written warning, followed by a \$50 charge for the second offense, \$75 for the third and \$100 for the fourth. The restrictions will stay in effect through Oct. 30.

If the drought worsens, the company could implement further stages of restrictions. The second stage would limit outside watering to one day per week. The third stage would ban all outside watering. The fourth stage would limit the number of gallons per month used by a household, with fines for noncompliance. All the stages would require further approval by the public utilities commission. "I expect people will cooperate because it's so important an issue," Johnson said. The company has increased water rates twice this year, in part to curb water consumption.

Bart Cross, who represents 480 independent homeowners served by the company, said, like most homeowners in the area, he's worried about supply. Few homes have water wells, and there is no backup source of water available. "We're told we would get through this summer, but without appreciable snow, and without appreciable rain, it may not be a functioning system next year," he said.

Melanie Brubaker Mazur, melanie@durangoherald.com

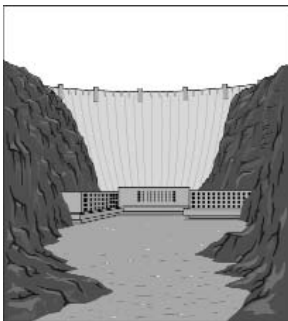
BANKING THE WATER

Maintaining our most precious natural resource calls for innovative approaches in storage, use and conservation

by Elise Jones, *Executive Director, Colorado Environmental Coalition*
edited by Karen Partak, *Peak & Prairie News Editor*

Coloradans are bracing themselves for a summer of parched streambeds, failed crops, brown lawns, volatile wildfires, and mandated water restrictions. Our drought pinch stings more hotly because our state has expanded by one million new residents in the last ten years and another one million are scheduled to arrive this decade, bringing with them their addiction to water dependent lawns of Kentucky bluegrass.

Drought angst has caused some to rationalize a return to big dam construction. This shortsighted notion is remarkably similar to the concept that we can end the state's traffic jams by constructing more highways. It also ignores public sentiment for protecting Colorado's rivers and streams, as well as their economic importance. Fishing in Colorado has an annual economic impact of more than \$1.3 billion according to the American Sportsfishing Association, and rafting and kayaking add another half billion. Furthermore, dams are costly, require massive taxpayer subsidies, take a long time to build, often exacerbate the rift between the West Slope and Front Range, and have substantial



impacts on the environment, all of which make them increasingly controversial and difficult to construct.

Why not let this drought spur us to pursue more innovative, cost effective, and environmentally friendly alternatives? For example, Colorado should be exploring a type of water storage known as "conjunctive use," which has been used in California and Arizona. In wet years, excess surface water is pumped into underground aquifers for storage. This groundwater can then be pumped out and used in drier years. While there are challenges associated with conjunctive use, such as finding suitable aquifers for storage, these projects are generally cheaper and less environmentally damaging than dams.

With the majority of Colorado water being used by farmers and ranchers, conservation in this arena brings us the biggest bang for our buck. One solution is "dry year leasing." In drought years, farmers could get a better return by leasing their water to a thirsty city rather than pumping it onto doomed crops. There are other

benefits: cities provide for their drought-year water needs while avoiding the cost and hassle of building new dams, and land isn't taken out of agricultural permanently (and converted into sprawling subdivisions). Still another solution is to help farmers use water more efficiently. There is a whole list of options: using drip or sprinkler irrigation rather than flood irrigation; lining ditches so they don't leak water; or laser-leveling fields so water doesn't pool up or run off. Unfortunately, farmers have no incentive to save water because in Colorado, you either "use it or lose it" – you don't get to keep any water you save; it must flow downstream to other water rights holders. Oregon passed a law ten years ago allowing farmers to retain 75 percent of any conserved water for themselves (to sell or use) and save the remaining 25 percent for "in-stream" flows for fish, rafters, anglers, etc. If Colorado passed a similar law, not only could farmers financially benefit from water conservation, but cities might also find it in their economic interest to help them pay for these conservation measures, as might recreation, angling and conservation groups interested in seeing more water stay in the state's streams.

Why let the city dwellers off the hook? They too could be employing solutions to conserve water and use it more efficiently. Why not provide incentives or rebates for homeowners who xeriscape their yards with drought tolerant plants? Or rebates for folks who install low flush toilets, showers, washing machines, dishwashers, etc.? If we charged more for increased water use, those monies could be funneled into incentive programs for an even greater return. And if we really wanted to get bold, we could pass state legislation setting efficiency standards for water appliances or requiring state government facilities to utilize water efficient practices and landscaping.

To truly embrace the reality of living in the arid West today, we must pursue a myriad of innovative and common sense solutions to Colorado's current and future drought dilemmas - and move beyond outdated proposals to dam the last wild stretches of Colorado's rivers.

Thanks to Melinda Kassen, Bruce Driver, Bart Miller, Pete Morton and Suzanne Jones for their input on this piece.

Opinion Editorial Printed in the June 1, 2002, Rocky Mountain News

How Small Is Our Planet? VERY SMALL!

Edited by Karen Partak, Peak & Prairie News Editor

As I mentioned in my introduction in the last Peak & Prairie, I would like to add to the content of the newsletter with related information to environmental issues which I encounter through my work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As luck would have it, the laboratory in which I work recently had an annual meeting where very recent findings were presented. Out of the dozens of abstracts and presentations on climate, I have chosen to present six, which all directly refer to the carbon cycle and its effect on climate and greenhouse gases.

The first of these is an abstract by Russ Schnell, a researcher with whom I work. The implications of his findings regard the transport of pollutants from Asia and their effect on the US. If, as the author has told me, California is committed to reducing pollution, it may still be penalized by the EPA because its total pollution load would still be above regulated levels because of the increasing amounts of pollution coming across the Pacific. As countries such as China become more industrialized and fail to provide environmental regulations, the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, and other forms of pollution will certainly place a larger burden on countries that received the air-borne pollutants. We will see these problems increasing in the future and will be dependent on international cooperation to deal with them.

Originally presented at the Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory (CMDL) Annual Meeting, May 21-23, 2002, in Boulder, CO., with the title: New CMDL Trinidad Head West Coast Atmospheric Baseline Station: First Data, April 12, 2002
By R.C. Schnell, NOAA Climate Monitoring and

Diagnostics Laboratory, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305; Phone: 303-497-6733; E-mail: Russell.C.Schnell@noaa.gov

Each spring, windstorms in China and Mongolia move east across the Asian continent stirring up dust. As they pass over the heavily populated regions of eastern China, the storms entrain air pollution from the urban areas and push the "soup" into the Pacific Ocean. Many of these events reach the United States within 5-7 days where the dust and pollution may be visible from California to the Rocky Mountains.

In other seasons these events are not as readily visible without the dust marker, nevertheless they transport air pollution into the United States. The air pollutants can produce ozone that is

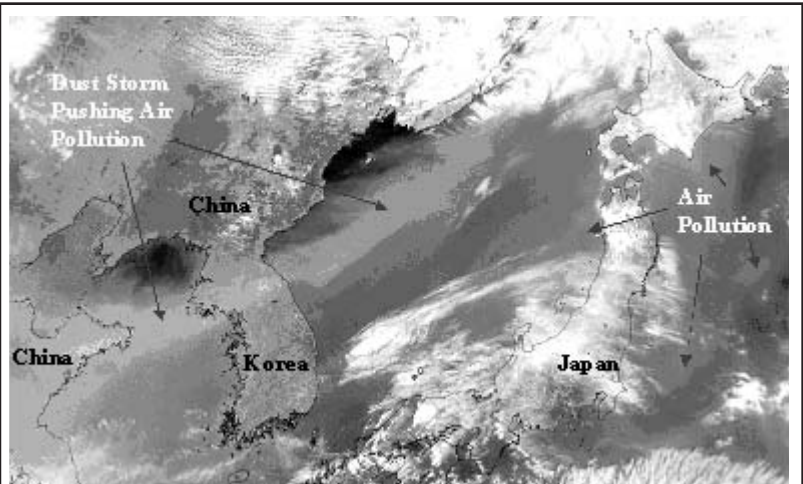


Illustration 1. Satellite photo capturing the image of the dust storm out of Asia. The lighter clouds are the actual air pollution. The darker clouds are the dust storm indicators which push the pollution.



Illustration 2. The sampling site at Trinidad Head, California where such pollutants are observed as they come into the US.

detectable in balloonborne ozonesonde profiles and from aircraft measurements. There is concern that eventually ozone levels in California may exceed EPA regulated levels because of imported ozone from China, not local products.

To obtain atmospheric baselines and determine trends in the effluents from Asia, CMDL has established a new Atmospheric Baseline Station at Trinidad Head, California. The station is on the top of a hill, at the end of a spit in Humboldt County northwest of Eureka, California. The measurement program that began collecting data on April 12 includes aerosol, surface ozone, and solar radiation measurements. These will soon be followed by carbon cycle and halocarbon gas measurements.

Dunes' Diversity

by Caitlin Jenney, Peak & Prairie Features Editor
Photos by Todd Burton



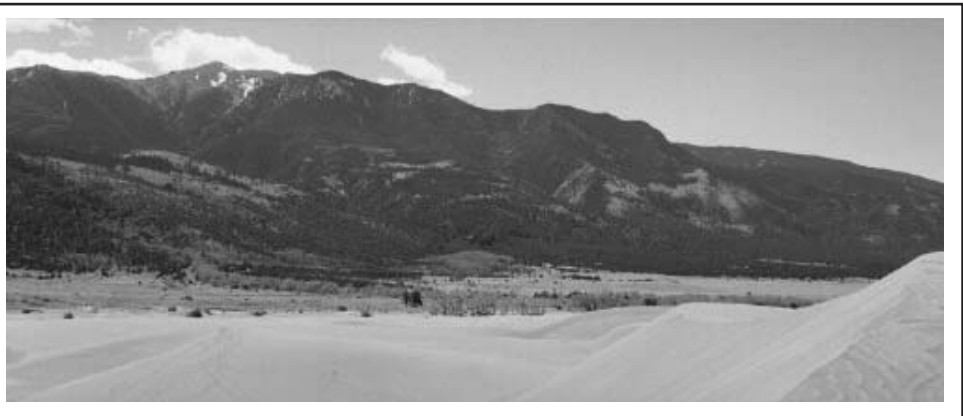
The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, composed of 39 square miles of sand grains blown for centuries across the San Luis Valley, also contains peaks 750 feet tall. Home to kangaroo rats, mule deer, elk, bobcats, coyotes, ravens, magpies, as well as various plants including scurf pea, Indian rice grass and bright yellow prairie sunflower. These are the tallest dunes in North America and one of the natural wonders of our country.

Three of my cousins, (one of them, Ian, en route from Seattle to Buffalo), a friend, and I decided to embark on a week-end adventure of hiking, camping, and exploration at the Dunes the first weekend in May. The five of us gathered our gear and ourselves into one car (an amazing feat in itself) and headed for the Sangre de Cristo



and San Juan mountain ranges. A few stops and a lot of laughter later, we arrived at our destination-in the dark. We were fortunate enough to land the second-to-last campsite at Pinyon Flats, right next to the ranger trailer. We set up and used the flush toilets (luxury camping) while Ian started a glorious fire. The temperature plunged to about 30 degrees but, thankfully, all of us had winter clothing to keep us warm outside and in our tents. (Well, all but Ian, but he somehow suffered through that first night and was better prepared for the second)!

Except for being wakened in the night by a car alarm going off (luxury camping comes with a price) we all slept well and awoke to the breath-taking sight of the Great



Sand Dunes rising impressively in front of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. After a quick but delicious meal of hash browns on the fire, bagels toasted on sticks, fruit and juice, we drove to the Visitor Center to view a 15-minute film on the history of the Dunes and completed a quick nature hike around the Center. We then drove back to our site and headed for the hills-the sand hills! We hiked the tallest dune, which was more of a challenge than we all thought; it is very difficult to progress uphill at a quick pace when you keep getting pulled down into the sand! But the view from the top was beautiful and it was worth the climb. (It was extremely windy but the temperature was in the 70s, which was perfect for playing on the warm sand.) The creek at the base of the dunes was mostly dry but it was fun to watch children wade in the muddy puddles and it was a pleasure to walk on semi-solid ground again (and to dump the small sand dunes out of our shoes)!

On the way back to our campsite, we hiked up the Wellington Ditch Trail to Frank Wellington's early 1900s cabin (Wellington was famous for his hand-dug ditches that supplied his farm with water from mountain streams) where we startled a rabbit that seemed quite content living inside. The red ants and giant sand treater camel crickets were not nearly as cute to watch but are an integral part of life at the Dunes. The rest of Saturday we spent eating burgers and brats cooked on the grill and taking pictures of the shadows passing over the Dunes. Later that night, we roasted marsh mallows and gazed in wonder at the star-studded sky. Sunday morning, we packed up all of our belongings, hitting the road for home after a quick hike up to Zapata Falls (a close drive from the Dunes) and an exciting exploration of the glacier-formed rocks. The icy water was very refreshing and the view of the Great Sand Dunes and the mountains from the falls was thrilling.

As we exited the Park, we waved sad good-byes to herds of mule deer grazing in the bush. Dozing off to the smell of campfire still lingering on my skin that night, I thought about how fortunate I am to have such wonderful family and friends living in a state with such diverse landscape and wildlife and I smiled at the thought of our next Colorado adventure.



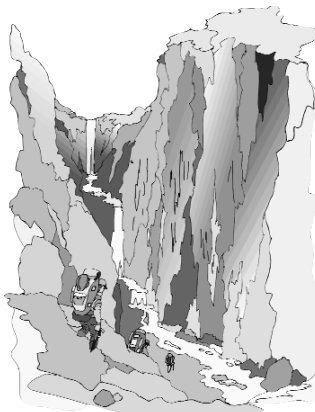


LETTERS

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

The Outdoor Leadership Workshop held in May at the Easter Seal Lodge near Georgetown (the first nationally sponsored leadership training ever to be held in Colorado) was a great success! The workshop was full (and there was a waiting list). Over 50 people from all over Colorado and beyond attended.

Some of the participants were seasoned outings leaders; others had yet to lead a hike. But everybody I spoke with thought the workshop was a great experience. The workshop leaders were personable and professional, and the sessions were informative and inspiring – not to mention fun! We got tips on trip planning, group management, and incorporating conservation issues with outings. The scenarios we acted out ("You've just led your group five miles in the wrong direction. It's pouring rain, and they're about ready to mutiny. What do you do??") gave us lots of chances to put what we were learning into immediate practice.



I think it was a revelation to many of us just how much there is to learn (all the judgment, skill, and experience) in order to become a really competent outings leader. What we are aspiring to do, providing an experience that leaves participants safe, happy and inspired, is not an easy thing!

Many people deserve thanks for putting this event together, but I think Patricia Berman, our Rocky Mountain Chapter Outings Chair, deserves special appreciation. Pat has more than twenty years of outings leadership experience with both the Sierra Club and the Colorado Mountain Club. In the year and a half that she has served as Chapter Outings Chair, she has emphasized the need for high standards and more training for our outings leaders. She has worked to provide training opportunities (like this workshop) and to make first aid classes more accessible. And she has personally acted as a mentor to me over the past year (my first as a Sierra Club Outings Leader) with practical tips, encouragement, and support.

It is vital that we continue to have a strong outings program in Colorado but we need help. If you can volunteer some time to be on the outings committee that is being formed please contact Todd Chamberlin, RMC Vice-chair, at vice-chair@rmc.sierraclub.org or call 720-406-0155.

Never stop training! — Nina Parker, Outings Chair, Mt. Evans Group

FIRE SUPPRESSION & LOGGING

The scope of recent wildfires in our area, state, and in the West has been immense. The Pikes Peak Group of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Sierra Club expresses its sympathy to our members and all others whose lives, property, and well-being are impacted by the fires. The tragedy of scarred slopes, displaced or dead wildlife, destroyed habitats, and diminished water, air, scenic, and recreational qualities are also deeply saddening. We praise the thousands of firefighters and volunteers fighting to extinguish the blazes.

As post-fire reflection and restoration begin, several basic realities are important to remember:

- * Any ecosystem, including a forest, is incredibly diverse in its workings;

- * Fire is as natural and necessary (though sometimes fearsome) a part of healthy ecosystems as rainfall, decay and rebirth, insects and birds;

- * Humans do not fully understand the complexities of nature's systems, though great strides continue to be made in ecology, conservation biology, and allied sciences;

- * The intense wildfires of recent years result from a complex of environmental conditions (drought, wind, dense forest cover, and others), developed over lengthy periods of time.

The most significant reality in the current forest management picture, as Sierra Club sees it, is that we have interrupted the natural cycle of fire on public and private forests throughout the past century, removing a key natural building block from the ecosystem. During this time, all of us have received economic and social benefits from the near-blanket policy of fire suppression – timber, short-term watershed protection, building location in forests, aesthetically-pleasing scenery, recreation, increased habitat for some (though not all) animals, and others. But with benefits always come costs. And, like it or not, we all must now pay. Sierra Club strongly urges private landowners in forests to provide defensible space and other fire prevention measures to safeguard buildings.

Recent statements by some public figures and some newspaper editorials have wrongly placed a large portion of blame for poor forest management on the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, while barely mentioning primary causes, such as fire suppression and intense logging. For decades, the Sierra Club and other conservation and scientific groups, often working closely with federal land managers, have promoted the planned use of fire as a key element in the health of public land and wildfire control. Though Sierra Club occasionally disagrees with the agencies, we still support them and the laws under which they manage the lands, which are of inestimable value to the nation and the world.

The public domain is not, as some would have it, a discount store, where anyone with enough money can buy anything they want anytime. The Sierra Club believes that public lands must be preserved for the long-term common good of the American people. The foundations of our public lands are their ecosystems. So, first and foremost, public land agencies, who manage on our behalf, must foster biological diversity and ecosystem health. From diverse, healthy environments flow sustainable benefits for all living creatures.

— John Stansfield, Conservation Chair, Pikes Peak Group



RECLAIMING THE CONCEPT OF FOREST RESTORATION

by Scott Hatfield



A major national conference in Boulder, CO, April 18-21, 'Reclaiming the Concept of Forest Restoration,' focused much on fire policy, vegetation management, and the credibility of the federal logging program, especially in national forests. Additionally, these issues were integrated into a greater conceptual context including endangered species and wildlife protection, wilderness system design, landscape connectivity and fragmentation, rural socioeconomic, Washington D.C. politics, grazing, and the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act H.R. 1494. Dave Foreman and Jake Kreilick delivered the keynote address. Restoration is the USFS's next generation of co-opted language attempting to find a crack into public acceptability for an avalanche of new industrial strength timber sales.

Under the guise of community protection, industry is creating wildfire hysteria to justify logging far from any homes. On the ground, fire prevention work needs to stay in the urban/wildland interface, or 'red zone.' Currently, there is disagreement over what constitutes the red zone. Creating defensible space around homes has meant up to 30' by some and 500' by others. What's important for saving homes even in a catastrophic wildfire is the action taken closest to the home. In Montana, the governor declared the red zone to include interior forests 41 miles from the nearest structure, which were subsequently slated for a huge timber sale.

Forest restoration is not the same thing as defensible space creation around homes. Restoration works toward mature, self-regulating, self-

renewing forests with natural processes and disturbances intact. However, many definitions of ecological restoration exist. Some components of forest restoration include predator reintroduction, livestock removal, natural fire regimes, developing more old growth, road removal, establishing connectivity, reducing fragmentation, core habitat size enhancement, and more. The socioeconomic of forest restoration enhance rural vitality with good paying jobs for locals, technical training, skill development, and a slew of community benefits derived from having healthy standing forests.

Conference sponsors and hosts, including the Sierra Club, are working toward the passage of H.R. 1494, The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, which would end commercial logging on federal lands, establish a Natural Heritage Restoration Program, and provide economic transition for displaced timber workers. It does not preclude legitimate vegetation manipulation, thinning, or tree removal, but it does remove the commercial incentive for abuse. Restoration topics included in the conference are a major component of the bill. We - that means you! - currently have 111 co-sponsors of this bill. That is half way to being passed since conception 5 years ago. It would be the most significant piece of conservation legislation since the Wilderness Act and will take time. For more info see www.forestadvocate.org or www.sierraclub.org. Your congressperson needs to hear from you!

CALL FOR At-Large Chapter Ex-Com NOMINATIONS

Do you feel that you can contribute to the Sierra Club in a leadership role? Do you have a commitment to working on environmental issues that affect Colorado? Do you have skills in management, organizing, public relations or a financial background?



The Rocky Mountain Chapter's (RMC) Executive Committee (Ex-Com) is responsible for overseeing the activities of the RMC. Ex-Com approves the budget and policy decisions for the Chapter, and sets the vision and direction of our work. Each local Group sends a delegate to the Ex-Com, and additional seven members are elected at-large by Sierra Club members throughout the state. We are currently seeking nominations for three (3) at-large positions. Ex-Com meetings take place quarterly on Saturday (and sometimes Sunday) at locations around the state. The Chapter reimburses transportation expenses to the meetings, and local groups provide free or inexpensive lodging. Members serve a two-year term.

If this sounds like a job for you or someone you know, please send a cover letter and description of your relevant experience to:

Nominations Committee
Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter
1410 Grant Street, Suite B303
Denver, CO 80203

Deadline for nominations is August 16.

WATER QUIZ

See how much *you* know about Colorado's water!

- 1. What is the largest reservoir in Colorado?
- 2. What percent of the water treated by public water systems is used for drinking and cooking?
- 3. Riparian habitat is used by over 90% of the wildlife in Colorado. How much of Colorado's land is riparian?
- 4. How much water does it take to produce a typical lunch--hamburger, french fries, and a soft drink?
- 5. What Colorado river was named one of the "most endangered" in the United States by American rivers?
- 6. How many miles of rivers and streams in Colorado are open to fishing?
- 7. How many miles of streams in Colorado are impacted by metals from acid mine drainage?

- ANSWERS:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Blue Mesa | 2. Less than 1% | 3. Less than 3% |
| 4. 1500 gallons of water. | 5. The Animus River | 6. More than 9000 |
| | | 7. More than 1300 |



Spread created by
Susan LeFever
RMC Director

DROUGHT DOES NOT REQUIRE MORE DAMS

by Steve Glazer

Colorado faces a serious drought and potential long-term water shortages. The drought affects everyone from farmers to city dwellers to the river ecosystems upon which we all rely. In theory, there are two basic solutions to our water problems: (1) stretch existing supplies by water conservation and other "non-structural" water use efficiency measures and (2) develop additional "structural" supplies through more dams and additional trans-mountain diversions.

The state of Colorado and its urban water providers should focus on the efficiency solution. Best-management conservation practices and creative, "non-structural" supply-side options will maximize the use of existing water supplies and should be pursued much more aggressively before launching what could be a fruitless, expensive and environmentally damaging program to develop more structural supplies.

Water conservation is a key to enhancing our water use efficiency. At the core of water conservation are rate structures that communicate the full cost of incremental supplies of water, thereby encouraging water users to use less water in light of the cost of the water supplies saved.

Front Range residents need to know that water arising on the West Slope is already applied to a wide array of beneficial uses. Today's drought makes it hard for the West Slope to meet existing human and environmental needs not to mention those that may develop in the future.

Discouraged by our state's outdated "use it or lose it" dogma, our cities don't work enough with farmers and ranchers to increase irrigation water use efficiency, where a portion of water salvaged could flow to the cities.

There is a wide range of best-management, water-conservation practices that Front Range water providers can use to maximize use of existing water supplies. Some metro area providers are implementing some of these conservation practices already, but we could be doing much more.

There is also a wide range of supply-side water efficiency practices, such as better system integration, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater supplies and other measures that can stretch existing supplies even further.

Excess water currently exists in some parts of the Front Range water delivery system. This water can, through cooperative arrangements, sales, leases, and other mechanisms (and with some system delivery additions) be directed to "drier" cities. With greater

collaboration and cooperation among Front Range municipalities (and farmers) the entire region, and therefore the State, could find much more stability and efficiency.

These efficiency measures usually are superior environmentally to new dams or large-scale diversion facilities, especially those that would serve to import more water from the West Slope. Efficiency measures also have cost advantages and can be carried-out more quickly than new "structural" alternatives. Colorado water policy should focus on demand and supply-side water use efficiency as a solution to the current drought and long-term water shortages before it launches a major program to use taxpayers' money on new dams and facilities, especially to import water from the West Slope.

How the state can encourage greater water use efficiency is a matter that deserves measured and thorough consideration by all the stakeholders involved, certainly Front Range urban water providers, West Slope interests, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, environmental organizations and many others. This consideration can take place with the prospect that a plan for such encouragement could be developed for, and reviewed in, the next, regular legislative session.

SMART GARDENING

By Tom Fry

Drought and wildfire are a condition of our landscape. This fact of the landscape we cannot change. We can, however, seek to mitigate the inevitable hardships by acknowledging the limitations placed on us by the climate in which we live.

Folks at Denver's water department realized this over 20 years ago when, in response to another drought, they worked with landscaping professionals to develop an alternative to the 40 to 60 percent water consumption by traditional landscaping. The Xeriscape movement was born.

Named from the Greek word xeros (dry), xeriscaping involves more than simply planting drought tolerant flora and installing water reduction irrigation. Xeriscaping incorporates both design and material elements that address a very particular location's water resources and needs. Xeriscapes provide an aesthetically pleasing alternative to the monolithic green of many of today's yards.

Xeriscaping has seven fundamental principals:



1) PROPER PLANNING AND DESIGN

Beginning with a well-thought out design that takes into account the myriad of conditions of the site (slope, shade, and aspect), vegetation is grouped by dividing the site into zones of high, moderate, and low water needs.

2) SOIL ANALYSIS

The soil of the area should be examined in terms of water holding capacities and drainage so modifications can be made as necessary to provide for the best match between plant, water, and soil.

3) APPROPRIATE PLANT SELECTION

Select groundcover based on its adaptability. Though xeriscaping places a premium on native species, exotics have their place as long as they match the area's resources.

4) PRACTICAL TURF AREAS

Green grass need not be a luxury. Though because it accounts for up to 80 percent of irrigation and other maintenance requirements, turf should be placed appropriately and deliberately. Buffalograss is a Colorado favorite.

5) EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

Our tendency is to water too much, too often. Watering should be tailored to meet the needs of the zone and efficient systems should be used, such as drip lines and micro sprinklers.

6) MULCHING

An indispensable element to xeriscaping, mulch serves to conserve soil moisture, slow erosion, and slow weed growth that competes for limited water resources.

7) APPROPRIATE MAINTENANCE

Mowing, weeding, and fertilizing decisions are based on providing the vegetation the chance to develop a deeper and more water efficient root system.

Xeriscaping need not be expensive. Whether you're starting a new landscape or integrating conservation concepts into an old one, start small and work your way through these elements. Savings are recognized in the 30-40 percent reduction in outdoor water use while more time is available to enjoy the yard rather than working on it.

XERISCAPING RESOURCES:

- www.xeriscape.org
- Colorado State University, Office of Cooperative Extension. Page: www.ext.colostate.edu (970) 491-6281
- *Xeriscape Handbook : A How-To Guide to Natural, Resource-Wise Gardening*, Gayle Weinstein. Fulcrum Publishing, 1999.

HOW DRY ARE WE?

Colorado's Drought

DROUGHT FACTS

from Colorado Office of Emergency Management

Drought is an ambiguous hazard that defies a universal definition. Typically, drought is a shortage of water associated with a deficiency of precipitation. However, water shortages can also be induced by humans. Perhaps it is easier to think of drought as being a function of supply versus demand. Drought occurs when a normal amount of moisture is not available to satisfy an area's usual water-consuming activities.

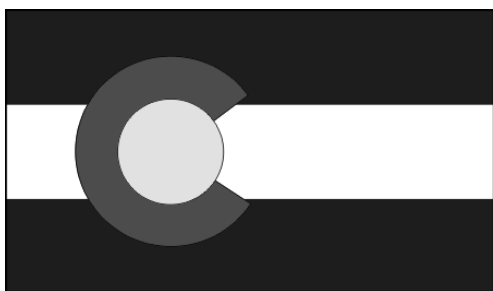
Drought is a frequent visitor to our semiarid state. The most significant impacts which typically confront the state are related to such water intensive activities as: agriculture, wildfire protection, municipal usage, commerce, tourism, recreation, and wildlife preservation. A reduction of electric power generation and water quality deterioration are also potential problems.

Several times throughout this century Colorado has experienced conditions of drought. The most dramatic drought periods occurred in the 1930s and 1950s, when many states, Colorado included, were affected for several years at a time.

The agricultural business suffered severely during the drought of the 1930s. The situation was exacerbated by poor farming techniques, low market prices, and a depressed economy which caused many to migrate away from farming. At the same time, progress was made toward improving the situation: better agricultural management; establishment of insurance programs; liberalization of credit; and diversification of the regional economy. Other improvements included irrigation; the planting of trees for wind breaks to mitigate soil erosion; and air conditioned tractors to keep dust from the operator. These adjustments moderated the drought in the early 1950s. Impacts were much less severe, although climatological conditions were not that different from those of the dust bowl era.

The drought of 1976-77 was essentially a winter event and was not long in duration. However, it was the driest winter in recorded history for much of Colorado's high country and western slope, and had serious consequences for the ski industry. Another drought that began in the fall of 1980 and lasted until the summer of 1981 also generated costly impacts on the ski industry and initiated a huge investment in snow making equipment. This was the last severe and widespread drought to affect Colorado.

Since 1981, Colorado has seen a sustained overall wet period. A few localized exceptions include a significant, but brief drought in southwest Colorado from 1989 to 1990; a growing season drought in 1994 in northeast Colorado; and a localized drought in southwest Colorado from late 1995 into 1996. La Niña influenced weather patterns in the winter of 1999, leaving the statewide snowpack abnormally low in the spring. While many parts of the country were experiencing drought conditions, abundant moisture in the second half of 1999 resulted in wet conditions over almost all of Colorado.



HOT WEBSITES

EPA SURF YOUR WATERSHED

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

COLORADO DROUGHT MONITORING

<http://www.dlg.oem2.state.co.us/oem/PublicInformation/Drought/drought.htm>

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY DROUGHT AND FIRE RESOURCES

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/menudrought.html>

COLORADO CLIMATE

<http://ulysses.atmos.colostate.edu/>

TEMPLATES FOR XERISCAPING

<http://www.cabq.gov/hot/xeriscape.html>



WHAT IS A DROUGHT?

A drought is a period of abnormally dry weather which persists long enough to produce a serious hydrologic imbalance (for example crop damage, water supply shortage, etc.) The severity of the drought depends upon the degree of moisture deficiency, the duration and the size of the affected area.

There are four different ways that drought can be defined:

- **Meteorological** – a measure of departure of precipitation from normal. Due to climatic differences what is considered a drought in one location may not be a drought in another location.
- **Agricultural** – refers to a situation when the amount of moisture in the soil no longer meets the needs of a particular crop.
- **Hydrological** – occurs when surface and subsurface water supplies are below normal.
- **Socioeconomic** – refers to the situation that occurs when physical water shortage begins to affect people.

From NOAA.gov – Drought Information Center.



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer

Drought conditions at Ketring Lake in Littleton.

DROUGHT & WILDLIFE

According to researchers at the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University, the state could witness water shortages this year unlike anything residents have experienced in 25 years.

As more communities are instituting voluntary and mandatory water use restrictions, the public is becoming more aware of the current situation in Colorado. We are in a drought, which ranges from "severe" in the northern parts of the state to "extreme" and even "exceptional" in the Southwest. Denver reservoirs are at the lowest levels since 1982, and rivers across the state are becoming stressed due to overuse.

The impacts of this drought have far-reaching economic, social, and quality of life effects including loss of fisheries, degraded water quality, reduced wildlife habitat, and affected recreational opportunities. The Dolores River, for instance, is in its fourth year of drought, making it unlikely that the cutthroat, rainbow, or brown trout will survive the summer. Farmers in the area are leaving their lands fallow, and fishing guides are concerned about their businesses.

The riparian areas in the river and canyon provide habitat for more than fish: river otter and bighorn sheep depend on water from the Dolores. Across the state, 46 species are listed as endangered, threatened, or are species of special concern. All these creatures depend not just on habitat, but the availability of at least some water to survive. In fact most of the high priority habitat identified by the Division of Wildlife is on or near a river corridor for that reason.



"The most dramatic and visible evidence of drought for forested areas was realized and put on national and international display," said Nolan Doesken, research associate at the Colorado Climate Center. "The rapid spread of the fires last week was indeed indicative of the widespread drought conditions that we face."

ASK THE EARTHKEEPER

by Mary Romano

Dear EarthKeeper: We are considering adding on a small addition to our home and doing some interior renovation of adjacent rooms, yet we'd like to use non-toxic materials and have it be environmentally sound construction. Where can we go for more information?
— Jon in Longmont



Dear Jon: I applaud your concern and foresight! According to Planetary Solutions, buildings consume 40% of our natural resources, 75% of our lumber, and 35-40% of all energy used in the United States. In addition, 15-40% of the waste in our landfills is related to building construction. There are initiatives throughout the country to certify "green" builders. The State of Colorado has promoted a Green Builder Certification Program which is led by the Metro Denver Homebuilders Association (50% of home builders in the State).

Several excellent Colorado-based resources are:

Eco-Products – David Adamson
www.ecoproducts.com
3655 Frontier Ave, Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 449-1876 ecoproducts@ecoproducts.com
Offering: Building Materials; Flooring; Adhesives, Paints & Finishes; Lighting; Lawn & Garden; Office Supplies; Industrial Supplies; Food & Kitchen; Packaging.

Planetary Solutions – for the built environment
www.planetearth.com
2030 17th St., Boulder, CO
(303) 442-6228 paula@planetearth.com

What's Working – David Johnston
An international environmental design and consulting firm specializing in environmental construction technology, based in Boulder, CO.

David Johnston is also the author of: "Building Green in a Black and White World" (written for home building industry folks)
http://www.greenbuilding.com/
NAHB Home Builder Bookstore, 1-800-223-2665
Publisher: BuilderBooks.com, 1999

HBA of Metro Denver
www.hbadenver.com/
1400 S. Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80210
(303) 778-1400
Built Green Program of HBA of Metro Denver:
http://www.builtgreen.org/

—Yours Truly,
The EarthKeeper

Mary Romano is the Community Education and Outreach Coordinator for EarthLinks, a Denver nonprofit. Founder of the Sierra Club's Lifestyle/Education Committee, she coordinates Discussion Circles in ecological topics and facilitates a variety of workshops. She also volunteers with Earth Literacy Companions a group that explores the "New Cosmology" as described by Thomas Berry, et.al. You can reach her at mor1@concentric.net or Ask the EarthKeeper, RMC Sierra Club, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B303, Denver, CO 80203.

The "Great Turning" PART I



by Celeste Rossmiller, Lifestyles Education Committee

We Sierrans of Colorado no doubt are heart-broken as we watch the wildfires burn through the forests of our drought-ridden state. It seems fairly clear that three, warm, dry winters are a manifestation of "global warming," a fact that even President Bush is admitting now. But his solution of "Let's just adapt" cannot be ours. In the next three issues of this Lifestyles column, we'll take a look at each of Joanna Macy's three ideas for "The Great Turning."

Macy is a long-time environmental activist and writer, known for her work, along with John Seed and others, in grief and empowerment workshops. Facing loss of so much life, so many ecosystems, we feel alternately numb or rageful, deeply sad or overwhelmed by the monumental odds that seemingly cannot be overcome by a few "voices in the wilderness." But Macy insists that we can achieve change through committed action. Somewhat like a Twelve-Step program, however, we must begin by acknowledging how addicted our society-the "Industrial Growth Society" [IGS]-is in all its component parts. Unfortunately, the IGS runs on an ever-increasing consumption of resources.

What is needed in its place Macy calls "The Great Turning." If our children and grandchildren are not to think of forests, bears, skunks and song-birds as mere fairy-tales, now legendary on our depleted Earth, we must both overhaul our understanding of our place as humans on the planet, as well as (continue to) undertake actions she deems necessary to the creation of a sustainable civilization. She suggests three dimensions that are interrelated: 1) "holding actions;" 2) analysis of structural causes

and creation of structural alternatives; and 3) a fundamental shift in worldview and values. The Sierra Club is especially well known for the first of these three, and is in process with the next two as well.

So this month we examine the "holding actions;" these are the most visible of the three, and are constantly called for, particularly with the current administration. Here are some of the "active verbs" that Macy uses to describe the work demanded of us: "documenting" the toxic leavings from so many aspects of the IGS; "campaigning" for laws that benefit not only the impoverished of the natural world, but of human societies, too; "promoting" regulations that uphold environmental and social legislation, with citizen "monitoring" of government and big business; "lobbying," "whistle-blowing," "boycotting," "blockading" places of ecological destruction,

"protesting," especially against the arms trade and militarization, and "providing" food and shelter to the poor and homeless.

Speaking from long experience on the front lines, Macy alerts activists to how tiring and thankless these tasks are, and cautions the rise of violence against protestors. She urges the development of practices of

mind and heart to tap into our inner resources, as well as supporting each other over the long term, so that "the head goose" can fall back into the formation while others take a turn leading.

Our work stands before us. Pick an action, any action!

[Joanna Macy & Molly Young Brown. *Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World.* British Columbia: New Society Publishers, 1998.]



LSE MOBILIZES FOR AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

by Leslie Martel Baer, MA, Mountain Muse Communications

For several years, the ChapterÆs Lifestyles Education (LSE) Committee has considered creating an event for America Recycles Day, celebrated annually on November 15. In discussing what this activity might look like, we asked ourselves: how can we help Sierrans in Colorado do more recycling? After examining many options, we arrived at creating a small booklet that would address how each of you can recycle the top four most asked about materials (as measured by inquiries to the "Ask the Recycle Lady" column): batteries, cardboard, plastic film, and polystyrene (styrofoam). Committee members know that many Sierrans throughout the state are already recycling many basic materials like newspapers, glass, steel, aluminum, and even plastic bottles. For many of us, it is relatively easy to get information on where to take these items. Those other four, however, while recyclable in many locations across Colorado, remain more challenging. In order for this project to be successful, the LSE Committee will need help in the form of volunteers and sponsors. We expect to recognize volunteers and sponsors within the pages of the booklet.

- Volunteers to collect information of recycling opportunities in their area of the state.
- Volunteers to summarize information.
- Volunteers for distribution.
- Sponsors for printing expenses.
- Sponsors for mailing expenses.

We hope to assemble this booklet in time for the mailing of the October/November *Peak & Prairie*. The committee currently plans to make the booklet available as an Acrobat PDF document through ChapterÆs web site, with a limited number of print versions available upon request. If you would like to assist or if you or your company would like to sponsor this project, please contact me at 303.989.3311 or at recycle@mt-muse.com. Together, we can make a difference this America Recycles Day.



Walk In Peace

by Lynn Fogarty (AKA Lorraine G. Michaels)

*She lets me walk in peace
The breeze, it cleanses
I look up and see the underside of wings
The rhythm of flight hypnotizes*

*Grass falls gently over the bank of the stream
Its blades bounce with the water that flows
Cold cold water from a winter's worth of snows
I am awakened and alerted by the sharp wind that blows*

*I walk and walk, glad there's no need to talk
The light fades, mountains turn purple, then black
I look up, one or two lights, then a million
I inhale the clean air one more time
Then fall into weightlessness
Good night*

styles

Book Review

EXPLORING COLORADO'S WILD AREAS, 2nd Edition.

A Guide for Hikers, Backpackers, Climbers, Cross-Country Skiers, Paddlers.

Author: Scott S. Warren.

Published by Mountaineers Books, Seattle, WA. 2002.

Reviewed by



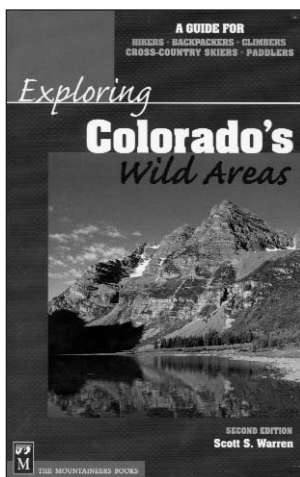
Karen Partak
Peak & Prairie News Editor
— Photo by Mark Itkonen

In regard to the fact that there are dozens of guide books for Colorado, I will come right out and say that this guide book, *Exploring Colorado's Wild Areas*, is one of the most complete I have had the pleasure of perusing. It is organized in a very coherent and practical arrangement: four chapters based on geographical location. Each chapter includes a regional map, as well as an introductory map at the beginning of the book, which provides an overview of the 69 sites covered in Colorado. There are also quite a few photographs illustrating the regional differences between sites. In addition, each area is thoroughly detailed with in-depth descriptions. This second edition surpasses the first (published in 1992) by the fact that it introduces several new wilderness areas, incorporates new names if they have changed, includes new acreage, and contains revisions to site descriptions. Warren has obviously done his research and the book is full of statistical information, e.g., acres of designated wilderness areas (3,369,614) and acres of special management areas ((99,440).

The chapters are divided into four categories: 1) Northern Mountains, 2) Central Mountains, 3) Southern Mountains, and 4) the Plateau. The dividing lines follow I-70, US Highway 50, and the eastern edge of the plateau. In addition to each chapter's regional map, each site description is accompanied by a more detailed map. Each site description also includes a set of "quick facts," which are: location (distance and direction from nearest town), size, status, terrain (prevailing landscape), elevation (highest and lowest), management (government agencies), and a list of reference maps (US topographic maps).

The sites also have accompanying text descriptions comprised of an introduction, seasonal information (accessibility), existing flora and fauna, geological background, the human history (if any), and a list of activities allowed in the region. There are even sections on wilderness etiquette and potential hazards (weather, wildlife, lightning, hypothermia, and giardiasis).

My final comment on *Exploring Colorado's Wild Areas* is to say that I found the first chapter on Rocky Mountain National Park intriguing, comprehensive, and very illuminating. I was so moved by the description that I even had to make a trip out there. This chapter is an excellent representation of those that followed. I also believe that the author felt compelled to update the first edition because of his love of the land and not because he wanted to cash in on a reprint. Consider his words from page 9, "I hope that this comprehensive guide to areas officially established as wilderness and those currently under consideration will raise interest in protecting Colorado's remaining wildlands."



Featured Volunteer

by Caitlin Jenney, *Peak & Prairie Features Editor*

Karen Wharton says she owes her environmental awareness and Sierra Club involvement to her husband, Eugene DeMayo. In order to spend time with him, Karen became active within the Rachel Carson group (Eastern Jefferson County) several years ago. She believes, and rightly so, that "the Sierra Club has an empowering philosophy" that "regular people can be involved with."

Karen's family has been in Colorado for three generations. In fact, Lake Avery, near Meeker, is named after her grandmother. Optometrist by day, activist in her free time, Karen has been treasurer of the Rachel Carson group for almost ten years. Karen has served the Rocky Mountain Chapter as Wildlife Chair and Conservation Chair in the past. In 1998, Governor Romer appointed her to the State Board of Optometry, a volunteer position in which she'd been interested for a long time. She was re-appointed by Governor Owens this year. She also volunteers at the Senior's Resources Center.

Karen and Eugene are avid bird-watchers and travelers. Last November

they visited Costa Rica, where they saw over 150 new species in two weeks — a bird-watcher's dream come true.

This year, Karen is Chair of the Third Annual Rocky Mountain Chapter "Wild Places, Open Spaces" Auction that takes place Saturday evening, October 19th, at the Brown Palace. Karen says it is increasingly successful as a fund-raiser and it is a great excuse to don seldom worn dress-up gear. Donated items such as: restaurant gift certificates, trips, kayaking lessons, artwork, gift baskets, etc. are welcomed to help raise money for the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Volunteers are also needed so if you are interested, please contact Karen at: karenwharton@earthlink.net or call Karen, Libby, or Susan at the office (303-861-8819).

Regardless of how Karen became a part of the Sierra Club, she has proven to be a vital member in her own right. We are fortunate to have her working with us for the betterment of Colorado and ultimately, of Mother Earth.



Karen Wharton

Photo by Eugene DeMayo



— by Mark Itkonen, Photographer

Rocky Mountain Chapter's booth at the June People's Fair, Denver.

Ask the Recycle Lady

by Leslie Martel Baer, MA, *Mountain Muse Communications*

Dear Recycle Lady: Instead of recycling, which takes energy to transport and to remake, how can we get companies to reward consumers for returning empty plastic, glass, and other containers that can be reused by manufacturers?

— *Closing the Loop*



Dear Loop: You have raised an excellent issue. The traditional recycle logo, three arrows in a looping triangle, was inspired by the phrase reduce, reuse, recycle. The order is significant: reduce consumption first, then make reuse possible. When all else fails, recycle. However, one must look at current economic pressures supporting each "R."

Currently in Colorado, dumping in landfills is less expensive than reusing and recycling. We need a change in legislation, tax structure, or market conditions to make it economically sound to reuse or recycle some items rather than dump them. These pressures can be negative (e.g., fines or taxes to companies that do not take back reusable or recyclable items) or positive (e.g., rebates to consumers who return these items; net savings for companies that take them back).

If you want to work with manufacturers, approach them regarding their bottom line. Can you devise an approach to reuse that will save them money? Our company does this kind of consulting on a limited basis, so I can say it is often possible to make both environmental and fiscal gains.

For more information, check out *Restoring the Earth: Visionary Solutions from the Bioneers*, by Kenny Ausubel (I have a copy I could loan; www.bioneers.org). The Rocky Mountain Institute (970-927-3851; www.rmi.org) also offers good resources and publishes the book *Natural Capitalism*.

The Chapter/Es Lifestyles Education Committee (LSE) discusses recycling and related issues. Consider joining the LSE e-mail discussion group (go to rnc.sierra-club.org/listserv.shtml) then "Find All Colorado Lists" and click on the Lifestyles option). Bring your ideas to LSE meetings: third Mondays at the chapter office.



You may also find support for your reduce, reuse, recycle ideas through the Colorado Association for Recycling (970-535-4053; www.cafr.org)

Dear Recycle Lady: Where can I take a worn-out down pillow? I would rather not throw it in the trash.

— *Doing Something Good with the Goose*



Dear Goose: Let's walk through the three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Most of us enjoy sleeping with pillows, so reducing pillow consumption is unlikely. Reuse of bedding materials is tricky due to state bedding resale laws. If the pillow has any historical interest (quilting, embroidery, etc.), antique stores in your area may want the item "as is." Many quality dry cleaners can clean down goods, allowing you to refurbish them to "near-new" condition several times before giving up on them. Natural-material bedding like down, wool, and cotton can often be composted, especially if they have not been treated with harsh chemicals. A single item might be shredded and composted in your own bin.

Replacing the old pillow? Consider one of the cotton or wool options. They can be cleaned by environmentally friendly "wet-cleaners" (ask for the service at Paradise Cleaners along the Front Range) to extend. Compost these items at the end of their life spans. Find sources for such pillows at Gaia (877-989-6321; www.gaiam.com), Green Marketplace (888-593-2784; www.greenmarketplace.com), Green Pages (800-584-7336; www.greenpages.org), and EcoMall (www.ecomall.com).

Mountain Muse Communications provides complete print and electronic communications services to socially and environmentally responsible organizations, including waste and environmental impact reduction consulting. The information provided is based on what are believed to be reliable sources at the time of writing; no guarantees of accuracy are implied and no endorsement is made of any particular service, business or product. Recyclers and recyclees can send their corrections, suggestions and inquiries to recycle@mt-muse.com or Ask the Recycle Lady, RMC Sierra Club, 1410 Grant Street, Suite B303, Denver, CO 80203.

A big THANKS to all of our Rocky Mountain Chapter 2002 March Appeal Donors!



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Judith A Beerbaum
Mary Beeson
B Beezley and L Ackerman
Darrell Bellert
Cynthia Beneduce
Noel Bennett
Ms Cynthia Benson
Dr Dalrie Berg
Patricia Berman
Jerry L. Berry
Robert Bers
William J Bertschy
Ross Beveridge/ Adele Howe
John Beynon
Gregory Biesecker
Mr and Mrs Peter W Birkeland
Thomas Birkle
Debra Bjork
Frances Black & F. Whitman
Richard Blackmore
Lynn K Blair
Sally Blaser
Stephen R Blazo Jr
Richard and Linda Bluhm
Margaret Blume
Mr Thomas Blumenthal
Regina and James Bock
Barbara Bogaert
Mike Boggess / Kellun Turner
Eugene Bowen
Don Bowman
Rodney Boyles
Duke Bradford
Todd Bradley
David N Brahinsky
Douglas Braun
Mr Arthur N Brewer
Roger Briggs
Ronald Bright
Timothy Brill
Helen Bronson
Edie Brown
Samuel Brown / Tara Miller

Althea Bruce
Ruth Bryant
Ruth E Bull
David Buller
Mari Bush
Deirdre Butler
P. Cafaro and K. Bronars
Sean M Caffrey
Carroll Campbell
Charles P Campbell
Dr. R Joe and Sylvia Cannon
David Cardinali
Steven and Carol Carey
Rick and Lorrie Carlson
Alan Carpenter and B Neely
Rhonda Carpenter
Duane and Arleta Carr
Mr Rick Carr
Claire June Carren
Ted Cason
David Cavanaugh
Una Chantrell
Mr and Mrs Joseph Chaplin,Jr.
Peri Chickering
Dave and April Christenson
Jean V Christopher
Francis E Clark
Laurel Clark
Mr Lowell E. Clark
Ralph E Clark Jr
Daniel S Clemens
Grover L. Cleveland
Dean and Raine Cockroft
George Coffee
Sally Conley
Elaine Cook/Zhahai Stewart
Linda Cooper
Tony Cooper & Deborah Cowan
Mr Robert Cooperman
James Cowell
Sam Cox
Brian K Cranmer
Marie J Crawford
Ian Creager
Barbara Cristol
Constance Crocker
G Christian Crosby
Bradley M Crowder
David W Crumpacker
Kirkwood Cunningham
Sandra Cunningham
Diane Curlette
Diane Curlette
Dr and Mrs Laurence M Currier
Elizabeth Cannon
Clint Dalton
Stan Damas
Bruce L Danielson
Russell and Phyllis Davis
Darryl B Deaktor
Vici Dehaan
Vici Dehaan
Gisele M Demaree
Dr E De Mayo and K Wharton
J Demmler
Elizabeth DeMuro
Robyn Derman
Ann Deschanel
Ann Deschanel
Thomas R & Marlene Detman
Michael and Dana Dew
Curtis Dickenson
Charles W Dickie
Mark Dings
Karen Distefano
Phyllis Dougherty
Eric And Linza Douglas
E Drennen
Doris E. Drisgill
Dennis M Dunlap
T E Du Pont
Jessica Duran
Alan R Duy
James Eagan
M. Easter and J. Moraczewski
Theresa S Ehrlich
Jeanne W Eisenstadt

Deborah Eisenstein
James Elder
Miriam Epstein
Rasmus Erdal
David and Melissa Evans
B Evert
Mr Jerry Fabyanic
Thomas G Jones
Mr. and Mrs. William Jones
Colleen Jorgensen
Kenneth G Kastella
Chris Keefe
Kevin A Keilbach
Carl Keiser
Clayton And Jeanine Keller
Mark Keller
Mary Jo Keller
Tom Kelley
T S Kelso
William A Kemper
Kenneth G Jones
Vaughan Kendall
Margitt Kennedy
Albert Kern
Charles Kerr
Ron Kertzner
Scott and Sivea Key
Ralph E Kincaid
Walter Kingsbery
John J Kirby
Valerie Klemme
Rosita Kline
Tad Kline/ R Wilensky
"William C Klingsmith, III"
Richard Knecht
Richard A Koc
Karen Kochanski
Marianne Kocks
Katy Kohnen
Robert H Koppe
David and Elizabeth Korevaar
David And Teresa Kosmicki
Bonnie Kossoff
Dann Kramer
Jon Krecker
Julie and David Kreutzer
Klaus Kroeger
Cosima Krueger Cunningham
Mrs Dorothea Krysuik
Elizabeth Kullman-Watson
Kristin Labbe
William H Lacock
Branka Ladanyi
Mary W Lamy
Ken And Nancy Lerner
Wayne R. and Jane A. Larsen
Carol Lassen Phd
Shaun Laws
Lerin Lax
Angie Layton
Mark C Leachman
Steven Le Blanc
L Lechner and D Braginetz
Nicholas A LeCuyer
William Lesage
Jane E Lewenthal
Bob Liggett
Frederica B Lincoln
Debi Lind
Faye Lindenbaum
Werner A Lissauer MD
John W Little
Mr Stephen J Little
Wendy Littman
Robert W Loeffler
Dr Gene Lomme
Doris E. Loomis and T Creighton
Mr William F Loving
Ralph W Lugbill
Lori Lunn
Cynthia A Lynch
Ky S Lynch
Jacqueline Leidholt
Fran Madden
Kathleen Magee

Mr Stephen F Maher
M A Malatesta/ C A Head
Christopher Malley
Malpezzi-Price ExperiencePlus
Mr John Mangold
Tempe Manners
N Marsh and V Clark
L. Martens and H. McDermott
Kady Martin
Ms. Mary Lou Martin
R P Martin
Jo Anne L Masi
Franklin S Massari MD
Ingrid M Mattheis
Gary Matthews
Marguerite Maxwell
Rick May
Carol Maybee
Pat and Eve McCormick
R McCormick and A Jennings
Joe Mc Donald
Mary Mcdonough
Ahime Mc Gregor
Dr and Mrs F C Mc Intire
Bob E. McIntyre
Stephen M McKay
George Mead
Michelle K Meroney
Ralph Merrill
Sharon Messenger
Patricia S Metcalf
Jim Metz
David Meyer
Eric R Meyer
John And Katie Meyer
Denis Michaud and Holly Testa
Clara B Miller
Mr Jay A Miller
Karen Miller
Leonard and Emily Miller
Richard Mockler
Paul H Mollenauer
Steve Monk
Steve Monk
Rita A Moody
Susan N Moore
Tracy Moran
Greg Morrison
Mr Stephen Morrow
Lynelle Mossholder
Steven and Susan Mostow
Mr Andrew Muckle
Jane S Muller
Stephen Mumme
Dan Murphy and Cindy Troxell
Dorothy Murray
Rev Robert W Musil
Bill Myers
Florence Myers
Sara M Myers
Hal And Elisabeth Naiman
Elizabeth Naughton
Jean Naumann
Mr Jim Nelson
Mr James C Neubaum
S Neuman and S Outing
Connie Ning
Barry And Paige Noon
Luke S Norland
Mauri M Nottingham
Susan O'Brien
Mildred And Lionel Oberlin
Jeffrey and Patricia Olson
Deborah Orlip
Steve and Susan Dorsey Otis
Wendy Otto
Lynne Paigen
Mark Paigen
Robert A Parsons
Dr and Mrs Bruce C Paton
Linda S Patryas

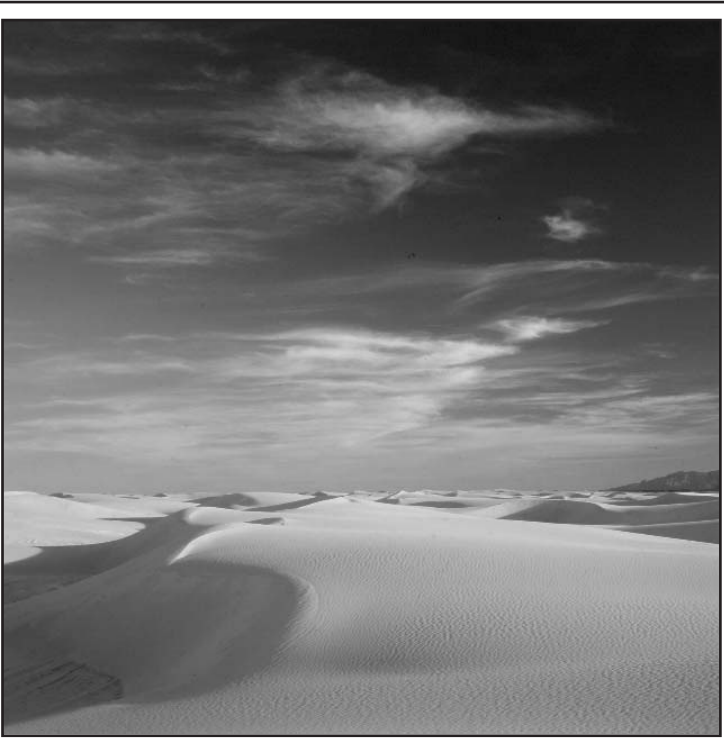
Gordon L Pedrow
Gordon L Pedrow
Ms. Sheila Pelczarski
Clyde O. Penney
Richard A Perkins
Ms Vicky A Peterson
Christopher Petrizzo
Dr Hazel G Pflueger
Mr Ray Piira
Gerald Pinsker
Willis And Linda Piper
Frederick Plocher
John and Carol Plock
Phil Poch
William A Pollauf
Mr Stephen Pomerance
Richard A Ponczek
J Portmore and G Anderson
Charles Poston
Martha Powers
Lauren Pratt
Randall L Preble
Kelly Prendergast
Lawrence Quell
Leonard Quenon
David Raccuglia
Giles T Rafsnider
Arthur Rankin
John D Rapoza
Mary Redmann
M Reed
Paul Reed
Harry O Rennat
Ralph Renner
Steve and Dottie Resnick
Henry Rewun
Peter S Rex
Debra K Rhoades Bidwell
Anthony M Ricci
Sandra Richards
Horst Richardson
Robert Richmond
Jay Richter
Daniel Ridgeway
Dr B W Ridley
Mario and Barbara Rivera
Christian Robbins
Cindy Roberts
Jerry Roberts
Sandy And Clint Roberts
Barbara Robertson
Elizabeth M Robinson
Peter Robinson
Carmen Rocca
Carmen Rocca
Frances Rolle
Andrew Rooney
Emily Rose
David E Rosenson
Mr Bradley L Rosenzweig
Mr & Mrs Edward F Roskowski
Carolyn Ross
Mitchel Rossman
Karl T. Roth
Helen Rowe
H Anthony Ruckel
Mr Ronald L Rudolph
Sari Salisbury
Dr. and Mrs. Emanuel Salzman
Eleni C Sampson
John B Sandoval
Kurt Sanford
Barry Satlow
Mark And Karen Saunders
Ms Susan E Saunders
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Sawvell
Mr Marshall Schecter
Catharine M Scheibner
Darcy Schlichting
Lara Schmidt

Mark and Marcella Schroeder
Jim Schwartzenger
Thomas And Christina Scott
Clee Sealing
Frank and Linda Selto
Chester Senne
Tama Serfoss
Ned Shade
Mrs Alice J Shane
Alison Shapiro
William Sheidley
Randall Shepard
John and Carol Shepherd
Wende Sherwood Reoch
David and Margaret Shishim
James Shock
Stan Siefer
Mary Siems
Ms Susan B Signorella
David Simon and Andrea Jason
Wynne Simpson
Karin C and Jack Sinclair
Ms Joyce Sjogren
Gregory A. Skomp
James Smith
Kenneth Smith
Kurt R Smith
Robert Smith
Stuart Smith
Susan Smith
Judith J Snyder
Jenni Sonnen
Dian R Sparling
Dan Spivak
Ken Spratiin
Ms Clyda Stafford
L Stark and D Mastronarde
Heather Starsong
Tyrone And Deidra Steen
Marcia M Steinmann
Alan Stewart
Steven Stingley
Fran L St Louis
Dr Timothy B Stokes
Richard Stoll
Lynn Streeter
Harriet T Strong
Richard H Sugg
Mr and Mrs Hjalmar S Sundin
Dale and Grace Sutherland
Carol Sweaney
Dr Irene Takahashi
Edward G Talbot
Ellen Taylor
Louise A Taylor
Benjamin and Mona Tell
Varykina Thackray
Ann and Lawrence Thomas
Cynthia And Merle Thomas
Jane Thomas
Mr. Owen E Thomas
Mary Ann L Thompson
Ron Thompson
James & Barbara Tilmant
Buck Tilton
William Timpson
Jean F. Tompkins
Jane Toothaker
R Townley
Dr Dale H Tracy
Ms Joan F Traibush

Kevin E Trenberth Phd
Judith and Peter Trenholme
Mr Richard Trupp
Gregory Tumbush
Anne E Turnacliff
Mrs Celia Turner
Edward and Mary Beth Twining
Jack And Janneke R Twombly
Marjorie Unger
Diane Uren
Sandra Ulrich
Teague Van Buren
Jackie Van Den Bovenkamp
Thomas Van Thiel
Audrey E Vaseen
Joachim and Ellen Viens
Deborah and James Vink
Deana Voeltzel
T Volckhausen and F Poinatte
Elizabeth Waggener
Jean W Walker
Lance and Joan Walker
Michael Wallace
David G Walsh
Jon & Jennifer Walter
Christopher J Walzer
Kevin Ward
R Thomas and Donna Ward
Brent Warren
Charles R Warren
Mr and Mrs J E Wason
Judith A Watthen
N Watkins
Robert Wattles
Mr and Mrs Vincent Wayland
C Weaver
Mrs Jean Weaver
Elizabeth Weber
Desiree Webster
Mr Jerome P Webster Jr
Rhoda Weinstein
Laurie L Weisgerber
Skip Welles
Carolyn H Welsh
Roger Wendell
Gene Weymouth
Geoffrey Wheeler
Kathy Whitacre
Mr and Mrs Calvin E Whitehall
Leah B Whiting
Jimmy Wickiser
Douglas Wiemer
Sharon M Wilbert
Ms Karen Wilken
Steven Williams
Robert C. Wilson
Mary J Winquest
Jon P Wiswall
Norm Wood
Alan Wright
Diana Wright
Suzanne and Bill Wuerthele
Oliver Wuff
Mary Wirkler
Mr Edward Young
Jan Zinkl
Sara V Zook
Dennis Zoss
Anatoly Zuber
Nancy Zurbuch Wilson



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer
Above, dozens of cormorants, egrets and other birds gather on a lake at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico.
Right, approaching sunset on the sand dunes at the White Sands National Monument, New Mexico.



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer

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EARTH CHARTER TO BE PRESENTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS

On September 28th, 2002, supporters of the Earth Charter are gathering together around the globe. The Earth Charter principles are intended to have enduring significance for people of all races, cultures and religions, and to guide humanity to clarify its shared values and develop a new global ethic for a sustainable way of life. The Earth Charter concept is a product of the Rio Earth Summit held in 1992 and is the result of a global consultation process involving over 40 countries. The Earth Charter, completed in December 1999, will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at the Rio+10 Summit this fall.

Although the Sierra Club has officially endorsed the Earth Charter, everyone is invited to read and endorse the Earth Charter individually by visiting www.EarthCharter.org. Rocky Mountain Sierra Club members are also invited to attend a local Earth Summit on September 28th, 9:30AM – 4:30PM, at Naropa University, Arapahoe Campus (21st and Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder) in Shambhala Hall. Free parking is available on campus. The event is free to the community.

Outing leaders can use the Earth Charter to initiate dialogues about global sustainability and to invite personal involvement in local conservation efforts. For more information, please email sustain@naropa.edu or cyengler@attglobal.net.

*"Let ours be a
time remembered
for the awakening
of a new
reference for life,
the firm resolve
to achieve
sustainability, the
quickenning of the
struggle for
justice and peace,
and the joyful celebration of life."*

– The Earth Charter



The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club thanks the following businesses for their generous donation to the June 21st Beer and BBQ Fundraiser at Libby Tart's house:

Tony's (aka Flying Dog Doggie Style Ale), 24th and Blake, Denver
Vitamin Cottage Whole Foods of Cherry Creek

Thank you so much!

**HELP THE
PEAK & PRAIRIE -
SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS -
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contact

Matt Anderson
[advertising-
manager@
rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:advertising-manager@rmc.sierraclub.org)
720-898-1136

At the foot of beautiful Pikes Peak...
Colorado Springs
In the center of Colorado Springs...

COLORADO SPRINGS COHOUSING COMMUNITY

An urban infill project with 34 Victorian-style homes with four floor plans plus a common house, on a bike path close to downtown, shopping, parks, and bus routes. First homes will be completed September 2002.

Cohousing offers a more sustainable neighborhood of energy-efficient homes with neighbors who know and care about each other.

We are actively seeking members to complete our community.
Please call 1-719-597-5407 or visit www.ColoSpringsCohousing.com.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

Third Annual

Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club Auction

"Wild Places, Open Spaces"

Saturday evening, **October 19, 2002**

Please mark the date on your calendar and join us at the Brown Palace in Downtown Denver for cocktails, dinner, Sierra Club entertainment, and many wonderful auction items – silent and live. Contact the office if you are interested in obtaining more details on the event – 303-861-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org. We will be updating you with information in the Peak & Prairie as the event gets closer.

If you are interested in *donating* an item from your business or craft, *volunteering* to be a part of the committee, or if you are interested in receiving an auction invitation, please fill out the form listed below and mail it to the Chapter Office:

Sierra Club RMC
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-303
Denver, CO 80203

We'd love to have your involvement and look forward to another wonderful and successful auction!

Yes! I would love to:

- ☐ Donate an item to the fundraiser.
☐ Volunteer to help out with the Auction
☐ Attend the Auction on October 19th.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number (home/work): _____

Fax Number (if handy): _____

Email Address: _____

**WILD
PLACES**



**OPEN
SPACES**

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*Former Chair Indian Peaks Group &
Sierra Club Council Delegate*

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Economically-Diverse

Near hiking, mountain parks,
and public transportation

Affordable & Market Rate
Attached Units
from \$240,000-420,000

Estimated move-in:
October 2003 – March 2004

75% PRE-SOLD CALL SOON!

wildsagecohousing.org
303-444-2691

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SUBMISSION
DEADLINE

for
Oct./Nov. 2002 issue

Monday, **August 26, 2002**

To list your event, email
**calendar-editor@
rmc.sierraclub.org**
for submission guidelines.

Late submissions may be included in the online Rocky Mountain Chapter Calendar. Send info. as an attached document to **outings@rmc.sierraclub.org**. Please check the web site – **www.rmc.sierraclub.org** and then click on **Calendar** (left menu bar) – for a complete and up-to-date listing of outings.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.



Meetings and events are open to members and the public at no cost. They are a good way to meet activists and discuss Club issues. *Hikes begin and end at the trailhead.* Call the leader indicated for info., preferably a couple of days in advance. Appropriate experience and equipment required.

OUTINGS

*** Please RSVP ALL Outings ***

INDIAN PEAKS GROUP (IPH)

**Fri – Sat, August 9 – 10
COMANCHE PEAK.**
Strenuous 19 m RT hike.
Kelly Prendergast, 303-665-7290,
mkprender1@earthlink.net.



**Sunday, August 11
DIAMOND LAKE**
10 m RT hike. Limit 12.
Steve Bortz, 303-440-5459.

**Saturday, September 7
WINDY PEAK, GOLDEN GATE
CANYON ST. PARK.** 8 m loop hike.
Bev Baker, 303-447-8390

**Sat-Sun, September 7 – 8
LOST CREEK WILDERNESS**
Strenuous. Limit 8
Nina Parker, 303-838-1524.

**Saturday, September 28
ROGERS PASS LAKE/ROGERS
PASS.** Mod 9 mile RT hike.
Steve Welter, 303-499-7261.

SIERRA CLUB SINGLES (SCS)
www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles

**Sunday, August 4, 9am – 2pm
LOVELL GULCH HIKE.** To register
call Ellen Slavitz, 303-635-4685.

**Wednesday, August 7, 5:30 pm
MT. FALCON PARK HIKE.** 6 m RT,
RSVP Jeff Baysinger, 303-969-9241.

**Sunday, September 15
GOLDEN GATE ST. PK.,** Red Barn
Picnic Area. Hikes for all abilities.
Karen Edwards,
karenjed@worldnet.att.net or Steve
Bortz, steve.bortz@rmc.sierraclub.org

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS (GLS)
www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls

**Thursday – Monday, August 8 – 12
CLOUD PEAK WILDERNESS,
BIGHORN MTNS, WY.** Backpacking,
difficult. Limit 8. Tom 303-832-3430.

**Saturday, August 17
DENVER, 10TH ANNUAL U.S.
BANK MOONLIGHT CLASSIC
BIKE RIDE,** \$30 fee. RSVP Dan Taylor
303-761-8738 or Male4Dan@AOL.com

**Sunday, August 18
LONGS PEAK, RMNP.** Strenuous, 16
mi. RT hike. RSVP Gary 303-449-8182.

**Sunday, September 8, 9am
ABYSS LAKE TRAIL, FALL
FOLIAGE HIKE, GUANELLA PASS.**
Moderate, 8 m RT.
RSVP Dan T., 303-761-8738.

**Friday – Sunday, September 13 – 15
NORTH CRESTONE LAKE and
GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL
PARK** camp and hike. RSVP Gary at
303-449-8182.

**Sunday, September 22, 10 am
MTN. BIKE FALL RIVER AND
TRAIL RIDGE RD., ROCKY MTN.
NATIONAL PARK.**
Jacob for more info at 970-472-0205.

SERVICE PROJECTS

**Saturday, August 10, 8 – 11am
Saturday, August 14, 8 – 11:30am
HENZELL PARK CLEANUP,** Denver
Angela 303-433-2608

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS
www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls

**Wed – Sun, August 28 – September 1
CAPITOL PEAK TRAIL
MAINTENANCE, Snowmass-Maroon
Bells Wilderness** Details coming soon..

EVENTS

Saturday, August 17, 10am
Denver. Sierra Singles, Pikes Peak
Group, **LIGHT RAIL EXCURSION.**
RT Fare is \$5. Sara Peel, 719-282-1112
or peelsa@earthlink.net.

**Monday, August 19, 5:30 – 7 pm
IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING
OUR CLUB.** Falling Rock Taphouse,
Denver. RSVP to Libby, 303-861-8819
or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

**Monday, September 9, 5:30 – 7 pm
IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING
OUR CLUB.** Pint's Pub, Denver. RSVP
Libby, 303-861-8819 or
libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

**Wednesday, September 18, 6 – 8pm
POTLUCK AND BOOK
DISCUSSION.** Denver. The Monkey
Wrench Gang. RSVP Libby, 303-861-
8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

SIERRA CLUB SINGLES
(SCS) www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles

**Saturday, August 3, 6:30pm
Singles potluck in Lafayette.** RSVP
Ligita at 303-926-9649 or
rockymountain47@hotmail.com.

**Thursday, August 8
MOVIE IN DENVER.** Desert and dis-
cussion afterwards. RSVP to Graham
Roy at 303-733-3707 or
grahamroy@mindspring.com

**Friday, August 9, 5:30pm
HAPPY HOUR: Red, Hot and Blue**
Sara Peel 303-282-1112 or
peelsa@earthlink.net

**Sunday, August 11, 10am
BREAKFAST at Chautauqua Park,**
Boulder. RSVP John 303-494-3890
SAGEJOHNM@YAHOO.COM.

**Wednesday, August 14, 5:30pm
HAPPY HOUR at Rhumba's,** 950
Pearl St., Boulder. RSVP to Steve
Arbogast at sarbo_us@yahoo.com.

**Thursday, August 15, 5 – 7pm
HAPPY HOUR at Judge Baldwin's,**
inside the Adam's Mark Hotel.
Dave Harmer, 597-3996.

**Friday, August 16th, 6:30 pm
DINNER AT CARELLI'S,** Boulder.
RSVP Mark Dickson at 720-887-6015 or
markd@sogent.com

**Saturday, August 17, 10 am
DENVER LIGHT RAIL
EXCURSION.** RT fare \$5.
Sara Peel at 303-282-1112.

**Sunday, August 18, 9am – 1pm
SANTA FE TRAIL 3 HR RIDE.**
Dave Harmer at 597-3996

**Wednesday August 28, 5:30
HAPPY HOUR at The Chop House,**
Boulder. RSVP to Steve Arbogast at
sarbo_us@yahoo.com.

**Thursday, August 29, 5 – 7pm
HAPPY HOUR at Old Chicago**
4110 N. Academy.
Dave Harmer at 597-3996.

**Friday August 30, 7:45pm
"SOMETHING ABOUT MARY"
Boulder Outdoor Cinema.**
RSVP to Karen at 303-527-3705 or
Karen7446@aol.com.

**Wednesday Sept. 4, 5:30pm
HAPPY HOUR at Rhumba's,** 950
Pearl St., Boulder. RSVP to Steve
Arbogast at sarbo_us@yahoo.com.

**Saturday September 7, 6:30pm
SINGLES POTLUCK,** Golden.
RSVP to Tim at 303-279-9109.

**Thursday September 12, 6pm
HAPPY HOUR, Conor O'Neill's,**
Boulder. RSVP Linda
lnettle@earthnet.net.

**Thursday, September 12, 5 – 7pm
HAPPY HOUR, Judge Baldwin's**
Call Dave Harmer at 597-3996.

**Sunday, September 15, 9am
HIKE GRAY BACK PEAK,** 3.5 mile
moderate hike. Call Dave at 597-3996.

**Thursday, September 26, 5 – 7 pm
HAPPY HOUR at Old Chicago.**
Call Dave Harmer at 597-3996.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Rocky Mountain Chapter = RMC
**NOTE: *Chapter Office is at
1410 Grant Street, Denver, B303.**
Enter North side of the bldg., 303-861-8819.

AUCTION COMMITTEE
3rd Tues. each month, 6:30 – 8pm,
*Chapter Office. Third Annual
"Wild Places, Open Spaces" Auction
Saturday, **October 19.** Libby at 303-861-
8819, libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COM.
Quarterly. Sierra Club leaders from
around the state gather to share info. and
make decisions about the Chapter.
Chapter Office, 303-861-8819.

ENERGY COMMITTEE
3rd Wed., 6pm. *Chapter Office. Support
the Chapter's 20% by 2020 Renewable
Energy Campaign. Tabling, developing
fact sheets, and organizing educational
events. Cindy Johnson,
cynthia.johnson@cvg-grp.com, or
greg.casini@rmc.sierraclub.org.

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS (GLS)
Contact Lisa Lewis at 303-777-3664 and
check the website for info.:
<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act.html>.

GENETIC ENGINEERING COM.
Saturday, August 31, 10am
*Chapter Office. Suzanne Wuerthele,
303-333-2519, wuerthel@ecentral.com.

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ico)
ICO's outreach program introduces
disadvantaged urban young people to
wilderness and outdoor activities. Learn
more – ICO hotline, 720-299-9967.

LIFESTYLES EDUCATION COM.
Mon., August 19, Sept. 16, 6:30pm
*Chapter Office. Bring dish to share, own
service. Make a difference to preserve the
quality of life on planet. JoLynn Jarboe,
303-753-0470 or jolynn11@juno.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE
*Help our statewide outings program
grow.* This will be a **statewide commit-
tee.** Call Patricia at 303-691-8852 or
email outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

PESTICIDES COMMITTEE
Second Fridays. For info. call
Angela Medbery at 303-433-2608.

POPULATION COMMITTEE
Issues include how rapid population
growth contributes to urban sprawl, U.S.
population doubling, and world resource
depletion. Fred Elbel, 303-220-7499 or
fred.elbel@rmc.sierraclub.org.

RETREAT COMMITTEE
1st Wed. each month, 6pm,
*Chapter Office. Help plan a fun retreat
for our members at the YMCA of the
Rockies. Libby Tart at 303-861-8819 or
libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL
First Weds., 7pm. Sandy Horrocks for
location / info, 303-470-1352.

SIERRA CLUB SINGLES
<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/singles> for
all the latest happenings!

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
*Chapter Office. What's missing from the Governor's Transportation plan? Buses, light rail, and bikes. Come help us put the Transit back in Colorado's future plans. For dates call Susan LeFever at 303-861-8819 or slefever@vanion.com.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Saturdays, August 3 & 10, 9am-12pm. Wetland restoration project. Lunch and refreshments provided. Kirk, 303-939-8519, kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org for details.

GROUP MEETINGS

BLUE RIVER GROUP
(Summit, Grand, & Eagle Counties)
Meetings and Water Presentations, 6pm, first Monday of each month. Karn Stiegelmeier 970-468-9013, copycopy@colorado.net.

ENOS MILLS GROUP (Denver)
– **Ex-Com meetings**
First Tues., 6pm Potluck, followed by Ex-Com meeting. Discussion of issues and activities. Ross-University Hills Library, 4310 E. Amherst Ave. Diane 303-504-9657.

HIGH PLAINS GROUP
(Eastern Denver Suburbs)
– **General meeting**
Second Thursdays, 7pm, location TBA. Sandy Nervig, 303-680-4635 or sandy.nervig@rmc.sierraclub.org for info.

INDIAN PEAKS GROUP
(Boulder County)
– **Conservation Committee**
First Wed. 6:30 – 9pm. Env. Ctr. of the Rockies, 2260 Baseline, Boulder. Letter writing on current issues. Kirk at 303-939-8519
kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org, .

– **Ex-Com meetings**
Fourth Wed.each month. Contact Macon Cowles (location, time, and meeting agenda) 303-447-3062
macon@SEEDcolorado.org.

– **Energy Work Group NEW GROUP!**
Jason Berv (location, time, and meeting agenda) 720-565-8185 jberv1@aol.com

– **Political Committee**
Second Monday each month
Aug. 12, 7-8:30 pm, Boulder Creek Mtng Rm., Boulder Public Library. Regina Wheeler, 303-381-5334.

– **Sprawl & Transportation Com. NEW COMMITTEE!**
Tuesdays, 7pm
Sonya Guram (location, time and meeting agenda) 303-245-9115 or sonya.guram@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Preserve The Future.

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in you will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Suzanne Levi
Assistant Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5541 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

– **Urban Land Use Com. (ULUC)**
Third Mondays (usually)
Contact Chair Matt Appelbaum, 303-499-8970 for date, place and agenda items.

Mt. EVANS GROUP
(SW Jefferson, Northern Park, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties)
Second Thurs. – Evergreen Rec Ctr. Betsy 303-674-7236 or Lyn 303-838-8117.

PIKES PEAK GROUP
(El Paso & Teller Counties)
– **General meeting**
Second Tuesday evenings.

– **Ex-Com meetings**
Third Tuesday evenings
Beidleman Environmental Center
Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019

POUDRE CANYON GROUP
(Larimer & Weld Counties)
– **Ex-Com meetings**
Second Mondays, 6:30pm. Poudre Fire Authority Conf. Rm, 102 Remington St., Fort Collins. Janna Six, 970-493-5034.

– **Conservation Com. meetings**
Fourth Mondays, 6:30pm
Fort Collins. Mark Easter for location and info., 970-224-9214.

RACHEL CARSON GROUP
(Eastern Jefferson County)
Meets as needed. To get involved, Chapter Office, 303-861-8819.

SANGRE DE CRISTO GROUP
(Arkansas River & San Louis Valley)
– **TBA- Legacy Series**
Featuring prominent individuals in the environmental movement. Jim Trujillo at 719-948-4129.

SOUTH PLATTE GROUP
(Arapahoe, Douglas & Jefferson Counties)
Fourth Thurs. 6:30 – 8:30pm. Bemis Library, Littleton, study rm – look for Sierra Club sign. Charlie Oriez 303-798-3236, charlie.oriez@rmc.sierraclub.org.
For activities: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/spg/.

TRAPPERS LAKE GROUP
(Routt, Moffat, Jackson and Rio Blanco)
– **General meeting**
2nd Monday each month, 12 pm. Centennial Hall, 10th and Lincoln.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Please clip, mail or fax (303-861-2436) this form to:
(or fill this out online at: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/volunteer.html)

Volunteer Development Committee, Sierra Club
1410 Grant Street, Suite B303
Denver, CO 80203

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (day & evening) _____

E-MAIL _____

Occupation/Educational Background _____

To receive **e-mail alerts and announcements** (the easiest way to get involved!), log onto our website to register for them at:
www.rmc.sierraclub.org/listserv.html

NON-Sierra Club Activities
The following activities are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. – Sun., September 20 – 22
CHAPTER RETREAT For information call Libby 303-861-8819.

Saturday evening, October 19
3rd Annual “WILD PLACES, OPEN SPACES” Chapter Auction To volunteer, call Libby 303-861-8819.



RMC RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM, Sept. 20-22, 2002

Lodging preferences are fulfilled on a first-come first-served basis. Another incentive to register early! All rooms have a private bath. Children must stay in the same accommodations as the adults with whom they are registered. Fees include food, lodging and workshops.

	FRIDAY TO SUNDAY NOON	SATURDAY TO SUNDAY NOON	TOTALS
Single Room	\$245 x _____ person(s)	\$129 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
Women's Shared Room double	\$169 x _____ person(s)	\$89 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
quad	\$129 x _____ person(s)	\$59 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
Men's Shared Room double	\$169 x _____ person(s)	\$89 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
quad	\$129 x _____ person(s)	\$59 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
Co-ed Room			
Adults	\$169 x _____ person(s)	\$89 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
Children (3-15 years of age)	\$30 x _____ child(ren)	\$15 x _____ child(ren)	\$ _____
Children (2 and under)	Free _____ child(ren)	Free _____ child(ren)	\$ _____
2 Day (No Lodging)	\$75 x _____ person(s)	\$39 x _____ person(s)	\$ _____
	Late Fee (after August 24 add \$10 per person)	\$ _____	
	Total Enclosed:	\$ _____	

Minimum 50% non-refundable deposit must be received by Friday Aug. 24; full payment must be received by Sept. 15.

Names of All Adult Registrants: _____

Names of All Child Registrants and Their Ages: _____

Make checks payable to: Sierra Club
Mail this form along with your check to:
Sierra Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter Retreat
1410 Grant Street, Suite B303
Denver, CO 80203

Credit card: (circle one) MC or Visa
Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration date _____ / _____

Please charge my credit card \$ _____

Signature _____

For info., Jane 970-8779-5760.

UNCOMPAHGRE GROUP
(Mesa, Delta & Gunnison Counties)
– **General meeting**
Call Shelly at 970-243-5138 for info.

WEMINUCHE GROUP
(Durango and surrounding counties)
Third Weds. 5:30pm, Bayou Doc's 701 E. 2nd Ave, Durango. Everyone interested in preserving, protecting, and enjoying the Four Corners' natural beauty welcome. For info. htriegle@hotmail.com.

YES! I'd like to participate in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club! So we can best utilize your time & talents, **check your top 4 priorities only.**

☐ Accounting/Bookkeeping–Budget/Finance	☐ Merchandise Sales
☐ Air Quality	☐ Mining
☐ Agriculture	☐ Newsletters–Chapter/Group
☐ Energy	☐ Outings/Outdoor Service Projects
☐ Event Planning	☐ Outreach/Program Development
☐ Environmental Education	☐ Pesticides
☐ Environmental Justice	☐ Phone Banking
☐ Federal Facilities Monitoring	☐ Population
☐ Fund raising/Grant Writing	☐ Recycling/Simplicity/Sustainability
☐ Gay & Lesbian Sierrans–a social/outings group	☐ Singles
☐ General office work, data entry, mailing parties	☐ Solid Waste–burning haz. wastes
☐ Genetic Engineering	☐ Speakers Bureau/Public Speaking
☐ Hazardous Materials/Toxics	☐ Transportation
☐ Information Technology–Computers/Web	☐ Urban Land Use/Sprawl
☐ Inner City Outings	☐ Water Quality
☐ International & Trade Issues	☐ Water Resources–prof. & experts
☐ Legislative–Contact legislators/hearings/review	☐ Wilderness/Forests/BLM/Public Lands
☐ Media Relations/Publicity	☐ Wildlife/Endangered Species
☐ Membership/Volunteer Welcome Wagon	☐ Write letters to legislators/newspapers

If you are a college/graduate student that has any interest in Sierra Club Student Coalition activities or involvement, please state the name of your college/university below:

Special skills, knowledge or experience I am able to contribute as a Sierra Club volunteer:

Thanks so much for participating!

August/September 2002

August 10 & 25, September 14 & 29, October 13, & 26, November 2
TRAIL RESTORATION IN CHEESMAN CANYON
Also some fire restoration work.
Jerry Arni at 303- 792-1932 or jerry_arni@yahoo.com

PRAIRIE DOG COALITION Front Range Comm. College, Library Mtg. Rm. The Front Range Working Group is working to recover and preserve the black-tailed prairie dog in NE Colorado, and to protect all species of prairie dogs and their ecosystems in the U.S. Dave Crawford 303-449-4422 or info@prairiedogcoalition.org for date.

WILDERNESS DAY HIKES
August 25, Thompson Creek, near Carbondale.
September 21, King's Canyon, near Grand Junction.
More hikes added throughout summer.
For registration and information, visit www.ourcolorado.org or call 303-534-7066 x205.

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PEAK & PRAIRIE

SIERRA CLUB

Statement of Purpose

to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth,

to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources;

to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment;

and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.



Sierra Club
Rocky Mountain Chapter
1410 Grant Street, Suite B303
Denver, CO 80203

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