5th Annual Auction approaches

By Cindy Nelson, RMC

O ctober 16, 2004, the Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) will host its 5th Annual Wild Places Auction and dinner. This year’s theme will pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, the Act has stood as one of our country’s seminal pieces of environmental legislation, enacted before the “environmental resolution” of the early 1970s. Several events commemorating this occasion are planned in Colorado in the upcoming months, many organized and hosted by non-profit organizations, including our regional Chapter. RMC is working in conjunction with public land managers from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service to honor the signing of the Act (see page 4 for related story). As part of the celebration, we’ve moved the auction to a new and larger venue—the historic Mile High Station located in the heart of Denver. It’s an upscale, yet contemporary location that promises to make this auction the best yet and to take the event to new heights in the future.

The Mile High Station occupies the former Denver Union Station. Built at the turn of the century, the building employed hundreds of ironworkers and craftsmen. During World War II, Denverites built and shipped large-scale ship sections for use by the U.S. Navy. Due to the significance of the building and the important role it played in Colorado’s history, the State of Colorado’s Historic Preservation Office recently chose the Mile High Station to be designated as an historic landmark.

The live and silent auctions will offer an opportunity to bid on many great items. Past auctions have included everything from one-of-a-kind baseball jerseys to a trip to Tahiti. We also anticipate a number of unique and interesting items featured in this year’s auction. Please accept our invitation to visit this beautiful, historic location, listen to live jazz, enjoy and appreciate by many. Whether we are exploring unique places such as Great Sand Dunes National Monument, shooting rapids on the Arkansas River, or simply taking in the majesty of standing atop a 14,000-foot pinnacle, seldom does one state offer a gift of nature that many of us don’t come to appreciate in some way.

The winds of change are blowing

Sierra Club events educate participants and promote greater reliance on renewable energy resources for Colorado

By Jason S. Wells
RMC Outreach Organizer

Indeed, Colorado’s natural gifts are enjoyed and appreciated by many. Whether we are exploring unique places such as Great Sand Dunes National Monument, shooting rapids on the Arkansas River, or simply taking in the majesty of standing atop a 14,000-foot pinnacle, seldom does one state offer a gift of nature that many of us don’t come to appreciate in some way.

FasTracks? Why vote for FasTracks?

Participants in the Sierra Club-sponsored tour of Xcel’s Penonneau Wind Farm on the Colorado-Wyoming border on April 17 got an up-close look at the instruments of renewable energy production, standing directly beneath the 44 impressive turbines and listening to Michelle Edwards of Xcel Energy speak on the present and future of wind energy in Colorado.

C lub members turned out in record numbers this year to elect five new members to the Board of Directors—22.7 percent of the Club’s members or 171,616 voters. For more than many Club members these were voter-elected positions. The four elections that concerned us most were the vote for President. Candidates for President were: a) Cindy Nelson at 303-861-8818, or cindy.nelson@rmc.sierraclub.org; b) Jan O’Connell, an environmental activist from Charlotte, North Carolina, received 142,049 votes; c) Corinne Aumen, a biologist from Loxahatchee, Florida, to a second term; and d) Pat Harken and Brian Fahn received 141,407 votes. The greater participation was due in large part to the efforts of volunteer voting captains to help members cast their ballots. For more information on the Wild Places, Open Spaces auction, contact Cindy Nelson at 303-861-8818, or cindy.nelson@rmc.sierraclub.org.
From the editor

N ot generally known to play such a large role in the definition of the "green" outdoors, Sierra Club mem bers are known to be voracious when it comes to crossing that threshold which delimits their desire to protect and above all else... to engage in various activities usually reserved to those rare adventures that only sport utility vehicle drivers, hikers, and homebodies find their own, and survive on grit and adrenaline alone. In response to this unprecedented phenomenon, the editorial staff felt responsible journalism demanded we report on a number of the brave undertakings of our members over the last four months. Just a few of these daring excursions include:

- **Peak & Prairie**: The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club has the opportunity to receive its bi-monthly newsletter, Peak & Prairie, in electronic form, we can save a lot of money (and trash) and put that money to work in other ways to help protect the environment in Colorado. Join over 400 RMC members (approx. 2%) who have chosen to receive the electronic version of Peak & Prairie instead of the printed version!

- **The Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce that members who wish to receive its bi-monthly newsletter, Peak & Prairie, in electronic form, can do so!**

- **Costs and 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 over 3,000 miles away from Denver and to the Sierra Club in Colorado. If a lot of members elected to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we can save a lot of money (and trash) and put that money to work in other ways to help protect the environment in Colorado. Join over 400 RMC members (approx. 2%) who have chosen to receive the electronic version of Peak & Prairie instead of the printed version!

- **Let your legislators know what YOU think!**

- ** remembers how your humble editor felt it necessary to issue the following warning to our readers: You can’t do three things at home, go out and explore, and protect the planet!**

- **The Rocky Mountain Chapter maintains a number of listersrollers which are known to be apprehensive to that message with the word OK, and you’re on the list.**

- **Example:** Peak & Prairie is available on the Rocky Mountain Chapter’s website, and Sierrans can request subscription via electronic mail. Please visit http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org to select your Peak & Prairie delivery options today.
People’s Walk for Housing Justice

Get out your walking shoes, June 5th marked the kickoff to a major affordable housing awareness event: the People’s Walk for Housing Justice. It’s a great opportunity to exercise and carry a SC banner in your community to support housing, which Sierra Club has adopted as a priority issue on a national level via the Challenge to Sprawl campaign. You can register for Community Walks (approximately 6.5 miles) throughout the state in places like Gree* Grand Junction, Durango, Colorado Springs, or Aurora. There are over 60 communities to choose from, probably including your community. Registration is $25, and scholarships are available through contacting your local chapter. The People’s Walk is a whole day event and includes stops at various sites throughout the state, such as the Denver Affordable Housing Fair, the People’s Walk for Housing Justice, and other events. (Thanks to your article). I want to find out what people know about this resource and how they can help, visit www.peopleswalk.org/order use.htm.

Got some extra words? Join me in my capacity as a member of the Board of Directors. I’m going to make this happen in my state and I’m going to encourage others to do the same. I will be in my role as a member of the Board of Directors. I’m going to make this happen in my state and I’m going to encourage others to do the same. I will be in my role as a member of the Board of Directors. I’m going to make this happen in my state and I’m going to encourage others to do the same. I will be in my role as a member of the Board of Directors. I’m going to make this happen in my state and I’m going to encourage others to do the same. I will be in my role as a member of the Board of Directors. I’m going to make this happen in my state and I’m going to encourage others to do the same. I will be in my role as a member of the Board of Directors. I’m going to make this happen in my state and I’m going to encourage others to do the same. I will be in my role as a member of the Board of Directors. 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Sierra Club endorses John Kerry

John Kerry was the clear choice for the Democratic nominee in the 2004 presidential election. He has a long record of environmental advocacy, and he has been a strong supporter of renewable energy policies. He has also been a vocal critic of the Bush administration’s policies on climate change and other environmental issues.

John Kerry’s record on energy and the environment is one of the strongest in Congress. He has been a leader on issues such as nuclear power, clean energy, and climate change. He has been a strong advocate for the use of renewable energy sources, and he has supported policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Kerry has also been a strong supporter of conservation and the importance of protecting our natural resources. He has been a vocal advocate for the protection of national parks and other public lands, and he has supported policies to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

Overall, John Kerry has a strong record on environmental issues and is a strong leader on these important issues. He has the experience and the knowledge to be a strong advocate for the environment and to work to protect our natural resources for future generations. He is the right choice for the Democratic nominee in the 2004 presidential election.
Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks

I'm writing to invite you to join a special Sierra Club event called Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks. Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks is a different kind of Sierra Club event. It's not a fundraiser, opportun- ity or rally. These are interactive gatherings full of dialogue and opportunities for exchange and action.

These events are especially for people who are concerned about the environment but don't feel they know enough to really talk with confidence about what's going on. The theme for our first one is that Bush administration policies on our environment are failing and that in our air, and increase our communities. In such important times, we must tap our most valuable resource, our members. Through the Rocky Mountain chapter is joining with hundreds of other Sierra Club chapters and groups in hosting these events as a part of a nationwide effort to engage our members. Our nation's air quality is under attack and we can't wait to respond. We need a change but we can't do it alone. We need to talk to one another about what we can do, and get involved, we can create change for the better.

Please contact us at 203-861-8819 or visit our website at http://rmc.sierraclub.org to find out when a Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks event is scheduled in your community. If you would like to host a gathering, I look forward to seeing you at a Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks event soon!

Sincerely,
Carol Stein
RMC Chair

Carl Pope discusses new book in Denver

Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope autographs a copy of his new book concerning the George Bush administration. He is joined by approximately 100 people at the Tattered Cover in Denver on June 14. A large crowd attended the discussion and signing.

Carl Pope filled the house at his talkbook signing at the Tattered Cover in LoDo on June 14. More than 100 people crammed the room to hear Pope discuss his new book, "Strategy Ignorance," which takes aim at the continuing environmental rednecks of the Bush Administration. He asked how the Sierra Club could help turn the tide. Pope responded: "This is a year about motivating, not persuading. It's about turning our base, not influencing voter opinion." While in Denver, Pope also met with Rocky Mountain Chapter members at a private reception and offered an interview with The Denver Post.

By Charlie Oriez
RMC, Information Technology Committee

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Southwest office welcomes new Associate Field Representative

By Susan Lefever
Chapter Director

Adriana Raudzens has been promoted to be the Southwest office's Associate Field Representative for our Sierra Club chapter. As part of the national team for the Southwest office, she will be working with our diverse landscapes in Colorado and New Mexico in a variety of ways:

ADRIANA RAUDZENS

will represent the club on many coalitions.

Adriana started with the Rocky Mountain Chapter in June of 2003, working on air pollution issues. She organized the "back on track" transportation art show with students at Metro State College in Denver. Last year, Adriana met with many community organizations, church groups and senior centers to talk about the benefits of transit. Adriana has been a key player in organizing volunteer signature gatherings for the FasTracks initiative slated for the November ballot.

Adriana is smart and friendly and has been able to work with a wide variety of people and organizations to promote sustainable transportation development in Colorado. Please welcome her to her new job, and help her in any way you can. Adriana can still be reached at Adriana.Raudzens@sierraclub.org.

The editors wish to publish the following correction

I'd like to make a correction to a previous news item. In it, I had a photograph and short article about the Deafener Plant in northwest Colorado.

The best mentioned how this plant was one of the dirtiest in the state. In 1995-2000 this information may be correct, it is misleading. In January of 2001, the Sierra Club announced a settlement with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the owner of the Craig air station power plant in Rifle, Colorado, for a $130 million cleanup after a federal judge ruled that Public Service Company of Colorado (now Excel Energy) had violated emission limits 19,000 times. These improvements would reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 90%.

This effort followed on the Sierra Club's lawsuit that was filed at the nearby Hayden power plant, which forced a $120 million cleanup after a federal judge ruled that Public Service Company of Colorado (now Excel Energy) had violated emission limits over 19,000,000 times.

These efforts were overlooked by Peak & Prairie press and others.

Sincerely,
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Charlie's listenserver profile of the day: RMC-CONS-ENERGY

If you have any news about Sierra Club programs that you would like to share in the Peak & Prairie newsletter, please e-mail it to susan.lefever@rmc.sierraclub.org.

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American Indians. And those are more violation of sites sacred to destruction. We're seeing more and more erosion, water degradation, and habitat degradation. We're seeing more and more conflicts between users. We're seeing more damage to cultural sites and more violation of sites sacred to American Indians. And those are just some of the impacts.

Now the USFS may take national action to control problems caused by dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other off-road vehicles. The USFS has proposed several improvements to its regulations governing off-road vehicle use. This is a huge opportunity for the conservation, hiking, climbing, mountain-biking, equine, fishing, and bird-watching communities to make it clear that ill-managed off-road vehicle use is degrading our recreational experience and fundamentally degrading natural values, including the last remaining roads that were once used. Moreover, it is imperative that we send a strong message to the USFS to reduce the demand on our natural resources by better managing the use of ATV's and other off-road vehicles to ensure they are being used responsibly and effectively.

Strong reforms are needed to protect America's forests from eroded soil, polluted rivers, lakes and streams, and noise, and to ensure that all Americans can enjoy our national forests. The Forest Service's upcoming draft rule is expected to:

- Prohibit cross-country travel by all motor vehicles except under circumstances that note the impact of them.
- Establish a two-year timeframe by which routes must be designated for off-road vehicle use.
- Authorize off-road vehicle use only to the extent that the public monitoring and enforcement are annually updated and used to determine appropriate levels of continued use.
- Prohibit motorized vehicles from roads and off-road vehicle routes specifically designated as open for such use.

We think that the Forest Service (FS) needs to do much more to ensure that our national forests are not permanently degraded by increasing numbers and types of off-road vehicles. It is critical that the FS include additional measures in the final rule to protect public lands, wildlife, and other types of recreation:

- Establish a two-year timeframe by which routes must be designated for off-road vehicle use.
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use based on sound science, site-specific analyses, balanced public participation, and do not simply designate unauthorized routes under the demands of a few forest users.
- Authorize off-road vehicle use only to the extent that effective monitoring and enforcement are annually updated and used to determine appropriate levels of continued use.
- Prohibit motorized vehicles from roads and off-road vehicle routes specifically designated as open for such use.

The USFS opened a 60-day public comment period on the release of the draft last month. To affect this rulemaking process, concerned citizens must make their voices heard. During this comment period, I urge you to send the Forest Service a letter expressing your desire for real reform. Moreover, it is critical that you ask at least five (or ten) friends to write a letter as well.

For more information on the rulemaking (including specific policy recommendations) and what you can do to protect our national forests, check out www.naturaltrails.org, www.cmc.org/cms/observation, or contact Aaron at 303-650-5818 x133 or email aaron.clark@drc.org.

Route braiding causing extreme resource damage in the Grand Mesa National Forest, CO. Photo by Aaron Clark.

By Aaron Clark

Lois E. Brown Recreation Campaign Coordinator, Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance (SRCA)

T he failure to effectively manage off-road vehicle use is one of the greatest threats to our national forests, according to Dale Bosworth, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. In his 2003 Earth Day speech, Bosworth called for the environmental destruction and antagonism caused by irresponsible off-road vehicle use.

"We're seeing more and more erosion, water degradation, and habitat degradation. We're seeing more and more conflicts between users. We're seeing more damage to cultural sites and more violation of sites sacred to American Indians. And those are just some of the impacts."

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Looking for elbow room in the city? Are you an urban pioneer? I'm recruiting for like-minded neighbors who appreciate nature and having room to breathe. My neighborhood of Denver has relatively low-cost homes on large lots. This ad is not permanent, it is only on paper to test out the market. The Sierra Club remember & am a real estate agent and not profit from this ad in any material sense. Call Maris at 303-789-1087.

For more information on the Sierra Club Inner City Outings program, visit www.naturaltrails.org.
Looking for Ibis Everywhere

By Sandra M Chew

In Trinidad and Tobago four-and-twenty blackbirds weren’t baked in a pie. Scarlet ibis were. Endangered species make some men feel full.

In Colorado I need less exotic ingredients: kestrels winging it, gray-headed juncos flashing feathers, and just in time a six-foot bullsnake it would be a mistake to step on. I eat coyote gourds with my eyes, gulp the songs of meadowlarks and red-winged blackbirds. Then on a day full of wind and w pinned back like boomerangs, a female marsh hawk flies over, seventy-two white-faced ibis lift in a startled bronze cloud and a hundred blackbirds garnish a cottonwood greenupping the prairie sky.

Telluride Mushroom Festival: forays, workshops, chefs’ cook-off and parade

TELLURIDE COLORADO, AUGUST 19-22, 2004—The annual Telluride Mushroom Festival—designed for people interested in edible, psychoactive, and poisonous mushrooms—will be held in Telluride, Colorado, Aug. 18-22. The festival includes mushroom lectures, forays, hands-on identification and cultivation workshops, mushroom poetry, and a mushroom parade which runs down the main street of Telluride. From September 16-19, guests will be treated to festivities at the Lake County Open Space in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, The National Parks Foundation, and the United States Forest Service. The Telluride Mushroom Festival is a family event, featuring a 5-mile walk from Bergan Park on the Pioneer Trail through Elk Meadows to open Space to the Evergreen Lake House. Walkers, strollers, children, participants of all ages and ability are welcome. Free parking and shuttle service will be provided at the Evergreen Lake House.

The festival’s second annual “Mushroom Cook-off Festival” features chefs from Telluride’s top restaurants, who will prepare mushroom dishes to be judged by festival faculty. The winning chef will receive a chef’s hat adorned with mushrooms, and festival-goers will dine on theme-restaurant dishes. Experienced guides will lead daily forays in the forests surrounding Telluride, generally productive of a wide variety of wild mushrooms, particularly edible species, like chanterelles and porcini. Nationally recognized authorities on mushrooms will present lectures and workshops.

For more information, to register or to visit the Telluride Mushroom Festival’s web site: www.telluridemushroomfestival.com. If you would like to volunteer, receive a walk brochure, or be interested in purchasing a raffle ticket or poster, please send an email to Lee@exhibitvision.com.

Telluride Mushroom Festival:

rooms will present lectures and workshops:

- Gary Lincoff, past President of the North American Mycological Association, “Wild Mushroom Identification”
- Paul Stamets, President of Fungi Perfecti (www.fungi.com), on “Medicinal Mushrooms”
- Ralph Stathers, Ph. D., author, “Fungi: the Baked Mushrooms of Visions”
- Dr. Emanuel Salzman, Co-Editor of Mushrooming, on “Mushrooms & Poisoning”

Complete information about the Festival program, registration, lodging and travel is available on the Festival’s web site: www.telluridemushroomfestival.com. Or write Fungophile, Attn. Mushroom Festival, Box 480503, Denver, CO, 80248-5053. Call 303-296-9359. Based in Denver, Fungophile has sponsored the Telluride Mushroom Festival for 24 years.

Contact: Emanuel Salzman, M.D., 303-296-9359 or 303-292-1538. Fungophile, P.O. Box 480503, Denver, Colorado, 80248-0503, 303-296-9359 www.shroomfestival.com

In wilderness is the preservation of the world.

— Henry David Thoreau

Walk for Wilderness—Winter Park-TBA

Walk for Wilderness—Steamboat-TBA

Walk for Wilderness—Durango—September 9, 2004

Wilderness Events—Steambolt-TBA

Walk for Wilderness—Grand Lake-TBA

Wilderness.net. Proceeds go to wilderness education programs on a local level.

Walk for Wilderness—Boulder-TBA

Walk for Wilderness—Ft. Collins—September 11, 2004

Walk for Wilderness—Vail—September 12, 2004

Walk for Wilderness—Aspen—September 12, 2004

Walk for Wilderness—Evergreen—September 18, 2004

Wilderness Events—Gunnison—October 1, 2, 2004

Wilderness Events—Divide—September 9, 2004

Aspen—Walk for Wilderness—September 12, 2004

Steamboat—Walk for Wilderness—September 12, 2004

Winter Park—Walk for Wilderness—September 12, 2004

Pioneer Trail through Elk Meadows Open Space in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, The National Parks Foundation, and the United States Forest Service. The Evergreen Walk is a family event, featuring a 5-mile walk from Bergan Park on the Pioneer Trail through Elk Meadows to open Space to the Evergreen Lake House. Walkers, strollers, children, participants of all ages and ability are welcome. Free parking and shuttle service will be provided at the Evergreen Lake House.

In September 3rd, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, creating the Wilderness Preservation System “to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.” To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing, events have been planned throughout the Nation, especially in states like Colorado, which are fortunate enough to have designated wilderness areas.

Unfortunately, wilderness areas and areas under consideration are being assaulted from all sides by the Bush administration and its agenda. Indeed, the Act itself is under siege by special interest groups seeking to change the rules and make wilderness areas disappear.”

As new roads get built, potential wilderness areas disappear.

Indeed, the Act itself is under siege by special interest groups seeking to change the rules and make wilderness areas disappear.

As new roads get built, potential wilderness areas disappear.

However, if you are unable to volunteer, please support these events by attending.

In addition, walkers will have a chance to win special prizes and enter a raffle to win the 40th Wilderness Anniversary Commemorative Quilt wall hanging created especially for the event. The quilt is being raffled for $5.00 per chance by the M. Evans Group. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Walk on September 28th. You do not need to be present to win.

M. Evans Group is also selling the beautiful 40th Anniversary Colorado Wilderness Poster by John Fiedler for $15.00. All proceeds from the event are going to Wilderness Education Programs on a local level.

Registration for the Walk is $15.00 prior to Sept 18th, and $20.00 on Walk Day. Each participant will receive a "Walk for Wilderness" t-shirt, food and drink coupons, drawing tickets and a ticket to win special prizes and enter a raffle to win the 40th Wilderness Anniversary Quilt. You do not need to be present to win.

I challenge you and your groups to get involved and show your support for wilderness preservation. Tell two people you know who are not motivated about these issues. They are wonderful opportunities for people to learn about our Wild Lands and the reason we fight to protect them. We know, you just might change a few more votes in November.

For more information, to register or to visit the participating sponsor, please go to MEG’s section of the Chapter Web site at www.moun teavens.org.

If you would like to volunteer, receive a walk brochure, or be interested in purchasing a raffle ticket or poster, please send an email to Lee@exhibitvision.com.

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For every gas well that gets put in, there is a pipeline.”

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As new roads get built, potential wilderness areas disappear.

The walking fee will be $15.00, with an opportunity fee of $5.00. Children under 12 are free.

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During his Denver visit, Coloradans urge Bush to reconsider environmentally destructive public policy

During President Bush’s June 1st visit to Denver, Sierra Club members and fellow Coloradans gathered at the Petroleum Building in downtown Denver to urge him to consider renewable energy alternatives over the poor public policy geared toward continued reliance on non-renewable, environmentally destructive fossil fuels. Chaper Director Susan Lefever and others reasoned that the development of cleaner energy production could benefit the state’s economy, environment and health.

Sierra Club RMC endorses Renewable Energy Initiative
Carry a petition to get renewable energy on November’s ballot
This statewide ballot initiative, endorsed by the Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter, would require 10% of Colorado’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2015. But first we need to collect 100,000 signatures from registered voters across the state by August 2nd in order to get it on November’s ballot. Your efforts in getting people to sign petitions will be pivotal for the renewable energy initiative. Whether you get 5 or 100 signatures, your effort will be invaluable.

Please contact Bryn Palsen at bryn.palsen@rmc.sierraclub.org or call (303) 861-8839 to get petitions and event information.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Dan Disner is the RMC photo contest winner this issue. Dan captured this charming fox photo in his backyard. It looks like the fox is trying to help water Dan’s yard. It’s easy to get your photos into the Peak and Prairie by entering the photo contest or just by sending any Club activity photos to the Photo Editor.

Have you achieved your 15 minutes of fame yet? Here’s your chance!
Send your best nature photos to:
Photo Contest
1536 Wynkoop St., Suite 4C
Denver, CO 80202
Each issue of the Peak & Prairie will feature the best photo submission.
By submitting your best photos, you acknowledge your agreement to grant Sierra Club, or a delegated representative, the right to publish selected photos in print, electronic or other media including promotional or advertising use. By submitting photos you attest that the photos do not violate the rights of any third party and that you have any required permissions and releases. Photos will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. SC-RMC assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of the photos. Winning photos will be selected by the editorial committee of the SC-RMC or a delegated representative.

Photo Contest grants SC-RMC the right to publish selected photos in print, electronic or other media including promotional or advertising use. By submitting photos you attest that the photos do not violate the rights of any third party and that you have any required permissions and releases. Photos will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. SC-RMC assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of the photos. Winning photos will be selected by the editorial committee of the SC-RMC or a delegated representative.

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The Denver metro area is one of the most beautiful places to live and work, yet our region’s quality of life faces growing pressures. As our population grows by one million people over the next twenty years, traffic gridlock will exponentially worsen. Already, Denver is considered the third most congested city in the U.S.

Congestion’s impact on our economy and quality of life are especially worrisome. Today, the metro region loses $1.4 billion every year to congestion-related costs, like decreased productivity and added fuel expenses and, the more time we are forced to spend behind the wheel, the less time we have to spend with friends, family, and community. No one values the stress and hassle of driving in rush hour traffic.

Fortunately, Metro Denver public officials, business leaders, community groups, and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) have come together to develop a transportation plan that meets our future needs.

FasTracks will build out light rail, commuter rail, and bus service, connecting people to all of the major destinations in the metro area. Imagine being able to ride a train right to your airport terminal or avoid excessive parking costs by taking light rail to the next Broncos’ game or Performing Arts Center event. FasTracks will also provide more convenient access to the region’s job centers, including the Denver Tech Center, Federal Center, and Fitzsimons.

FasTracks will also help people save time. In 2025, with more people on the road, it will take 76 minutes to drive from the Aurora City Center to downtown during rush hour. Light rail will reduce the commute to only 40 minutes. Similarly, Longmont to downtown Denver will take 133 minutes by car, but only 61 minutes by rail.

Of course, not everyone will choose to ride transit all of the time, but expanding our transportation options will benefit us all. On those snowy winter days when traffic backs up for miles, rail gets people to work on time; and by relieving overall roadway congestion, FasTracks will help even those who continue to drive at the same time.

We know that just building more highways cannot solve our growing traffic problems. We need more transportation choices with a diversity of access to the metro region’s economic, cultural, and social centers. FasTracks will play a key role in helping Metro Denver plan for its future and maintain the region’s high quality of life.

FasTracks, the nuts and bolts

FasTracks is a transit expansion plan put together by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and developed with guidance from public officials, business leaders, and community groups. Here’s what it includes:

- 119 miles of new light rail and commuter rail
- 18 miles of bus rapid transit
- 57 new transit stations
- Redeployed and enhanced local and suburb-to-suburb bus service
- 31 new and expanded existing Park-n-Rides
- New bikeways and better pedestrian crossings

FasTracks will require a twelve-year build-out based on a sales tax increase equivalent to four pennies on a ten-dollar purchase. A citizen vote will be necessary to approve the tax increase.

**Map of rapid transit routes**

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**Time savings on FasTracks 2025**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route Description</th>
<th>Drive alone (in minutes)</th>
<th>Transit/Train (in minutes)</th>
<th>Drive alone (miles per hour)</th>
<th>Transit/Train (miles per hour)</th>
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<tr>
<td>US-36 Rail Corridor from Longmont</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>41.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Metro from 160th Ave.</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>22.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Corridor from DIA</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>27.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-225 Corridor from Aurora C. Center</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE Extension from Ridgegate PIW</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SW Extension from Lucent/Plaza</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>39</td>
<td>24.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Line from Ward Road</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>26.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Corridor</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Drive-alone time and speeds are for in-vehicle segment of trip. Train/transit includes transfer time but not walk access or drive access time. Source: RTD summary of regional travel model information.
Transit-oriented development

Transportation routes dictate development patterns. People have always settled primarily along rivers, on good harbors, near railroads and airports or, in the past century, near highways. Old pictures of Colfax Avenue and Broadway in Denver show street car suburbs before cars. More recently, the interstates of the postwar era have probably had the most effect on Colorado’s development and the resulting sprawl pattern. What has lagged behind over the past fifty years is the appropriate balance and integration between land use policy and transportation expansion.

With Fastracks, there is the opportunity to attain that balance over time, through the increased emphasis on TODs, or transit-orient- ed developments. With the passage of Fastracks, there will be numerous opportunities for TODs throughout the front range of Colorado. This is true for larger developments and includes opportunities for existing strip malls to be reinvigorated along arteri al transportation routes.

This will encourage more infill development, providing an alter native to sprawl and allowing more land to be used for open space, trails, and other public use, which will help existing and developing suburbs to mature into more sustainable communities.

Imagine being able to live most anywhere, work most anywhere, not need a car and have access to urban amenities and rural recreation outside your door. Or, you can own a car and just leave it in the garage more often; either way it will be nice to have the option.

Today’s suburbs are notable for the predominance of isolated sin gle use zoning, typified by single family houses, isolated apart ment complexes, large shopping and industrial parks and arterial corridor strip malls. With few exceptions, most people require a vehicle for access to daily needs, even for a simple video rental or a school-age child’s visit to a friend’s house.

Diversity of transportation modes and a mix of development options provide for healthier communities with a concept similar to that of biodiversity. The more options and access the more sustainable an environment.

TODs can provide part of this diversity to maturing suburbs by creating urban, functioning environments which are, ideally, higher-densi ty mixed use, pedestrian-oriented develop ments attached to transit stops. The inclusion of public open spaces and civic uses around a commercial core, with housing alternatives accessed by roads as well as trails, and open space access to adjacent neighborhoods is critical to their success.

TODs are intermodal hubs that meet daily shopping and service needs for both residents and commuters. A 2000’ radius from a station is the recommended limit for a comfortable 10-minute walk for a majority of people, which should define the limits of the core of any TOD.

Regardless of size, a commercial core within this limit should contain offices and studios above the retail, and above that, housing, which is key to having a 24/7 environment, adding to the vibrancy and security of the place through residents who take ownership, ideally, parking is hidden in structures behind the retail and residential developments.

Most suburbs of the past 50 years grew without a downtown. Some existing rural towns had a downtown, but were swallowed by the sprawl that came later. TODs can provide an opportunity to create focal points for communities. Designed as infill or as new developments, they can be an impetus to slow sprawl through reinvigorating existing communities.

Two Colorado examples of TOD impact are Englewood and Littleton. When the previously completed light rail line ran along Santa Fe drive, the location of transit stops took advantage of the existing downtown along Main Street in Littleton and created an opportunity to revitalize the vacant Cinderella City shopping center behind the downtown.

Englewood into the new City Center. The walkable mixed-use neighborhood was developed and connected to the transit stop by a pedestrian bridge, building on previous downtown efforts such as the streetscape in Broadway and bike and drainage improvements along Hampden Avenue. Now, instead of a sea of asphalt off a state highway and a totally indoor mall environment, there is a town hall, library, shopping offices, rental apartments and a walk able, safe, inviting street environment enhanced by green spaces, fountains and public art, all with connections to the regional bike path system and adjacent single family neighborhoods.
On June 16, 2004, volunteers gathered at a Rockies/Red Sox game to celebrate the expansion of Denver’s transportation choices with more rail and bus service.

Rejoice, the Song of the Wolf

By Ruth O’bey

We are celebrating the birth of a cub, the return of the northern gray wolf. D’ancing in the lambent light of the full moon, mesmerized by the star, feinting with his shadow in the plush, glittering snow, the gray wolf bays, pirouettes of the full moon, mesmerized by the star,

It’s a magical fugue of new life and hope. The gray wolf revels in its solitude, but is never truly alone. Soon others join in the canticle of howls, yips, virtuoso hallelujahs. With hat man has done, he can undo, restoring the balance, rejoicing to the return of the wolf.

Listen to the harmony!

Ruth O’bey’s recent book A Seran of Piasa is a fascinating blend of poetry, original art, natural history, and an historic essay-cum-template for groups and communities who wish to preserve open space. A Seran of Piasa is now available at The Tattered Cover Book Store in Denver (or call the author at 719-634-2856). It is 85 pages, in color, and sells for $12.95.

On the wing

The photographer spotted this prairie falcon hunting in his backyard in Littleton in January. This falcon comes around about once a year, usually during the winter months.

Photo by Mark Wixoren.

NEO-COLONIAL COLORADO: Xcel’s Plan for Pueblo

By Harold Wood

The Sierra Club announces new standards-aligned Science lesson plans inspired by, and using John Muir’s adventures and expeditions. John Muir was the famed naturalist, explorer, writer, conservationist, co-founder of the Sierra Club, renowned for his exciting adventures in California and Alaska, among other travels in search of beauty. As a writer, he taught the people of his time and ours the natural wealth of his beloved western states.

The Science lesson plans are aligned to the California Academic Content Standards for Science for each grade level, K-12. Both curricula can be used at any time of the year, and can be used in a variety of subjects, with appropriate modifications. The new lesson plans are designed to be used in conjunction with the John Muir Education Committee’s lesson plans.

Teachers may obtain the new Science lesson plans free of charge at the following website:

http://www.sierraclub.org/john.muir/exhibit/lessonscience

For more information, contact Harold Wood at (559) 739-8527, or harold.wood@sierraclub.org.
By Suzanne Wuerteleth
Chair, RMC Genetic Engineering Committee

By the time you read this, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) will again have decided whether "biopharmaceutical" crops genetically engineered to produce drugs—can be planted here.

Last year, CDA decided to let the Iowa State University researcher Dr. Kan Wang1 wants to plant corn genetically engineered to produce a protein that makes an experimental vaccine that could be used to treat diabetes.

Iowa State University researcher Dr. Wang has said he could not find any place in Iowa that is the required 50 miles from food corn.

Representatives of the Sierra Club, Colorado Organic Producers Association, Colorado Genetic Engineering Network, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Montana and Western Colorado Congress met with Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Dan Arapahoe on April 16th to express our concerns.

We pointed out a Union of Concerned Scientists report detailing and to understand its ruthless destruction.

We were assured that this was an "inert component." Finally, we pointed out that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which must approve biopharmaceutical applications before they are given to CDA, is conducting an "Environmental Impact Statement" on their program regulating GEpiants, and if they fail, if biopharming shoulders be conducted in food crops.

We suggested it would be wise to see if USDA will continue to approve biopharming before Colorado goes ahead. Commissioner Arapahoe said he is "working with USDA." We said we hoped he would tell USDA that drugs should not be manufactured in food crops and that he would ask that USDA insure that companies post bonds to reimburse farmers if their crops are contaminated. Commissioner Arapahoe said he "is very excited about biopharming, that he doesn't think biopharming companies should have to assume liability and that if farmers are injured, they should "work it out in the courts."

When I was a coyote,

My blood ran hot,

But against the cold

M y b lo o d ran hot, when I was a coyote. Long before I was old.

\footnote{1 Dr. Kan Wang can be reached at (515) 294-4429.}

\footnote{2 Bio-pharm crops: Proceed With Caution, by Patricia Byrne, Biotechnology and Agriculture, Guest Editor, February 17, 2004.}


PHARM CROPS NEAR STERLING?

Sharin’ of the Green
By Frank Montarelli

COYOTE

THIRST, a compelling documentary film, will be shown on PBS “Point of View” July 12th. Thirst tells the story of communities stretching from Stockton, CA to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to Rajasthan, India which are experiencing corporate control of their water and water services in order to preserve access to clean water as a human right and public trust.

Produced by independent film makers Alan Snolley and Deborah Kaufman, Thirst is Sierra Club member Dale Stocking speaking out and walking the talk in Stockton. It also shows activities from around the globe confronting the corporate water privatizers in Kyoto, Japan at the Third World Water Forum.

Don’t sit at home alone! Invite your friends and neighbors for a house party to view Thirst with you. Contact Sierra Club’s Water Privatization Task Force at 502-244-0561 for copies of the Sierra Club’s discussion guide to the film and for Sierra Club brochures on bottled water.

To view the discussion guide online and learn more about Sierra Club’s work on water privatization, go to www.sierrachicago.org/cw/urbanwater/urbanwater.html.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JULY 13!**

Watch THIRST on PBS and invite your friends and neighbors.

\footnote{By By Frank Montarelli}

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Book Review

By Jenna Hamrick Young

Perhaps the highest praise one can give Mary Taylor Young’s Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist’s Prairie Journey is that her collection of narratives makes you want to head east to experience what Young describes as the “clear feel of grass and sky, the intangible wonder of space and horizon” on the plains rather than taking the well-trodden route west to the mountains.

Young writes with her eyes wide open. Many of the places that fall under her ken, naturalist’s gaze are familiar settings like Cherry Creek, Parlier, and the rapidly disappearing areas in between that are over-looked by most but are explored by Young as pockets of prairie harbor- ing native plants and wildlife.

Her observations of the shifting colors of prairie grasses and the mysti- cal flight of a hawk encourage read- ers to shed the blinkers of daily life to appreciate the remnants of shortgrass prairie that permeate in a Front Range increasingly choked by asphalt and thirty lawns.

"The prairie is not a land to offer its natural and human history. U.D. depending on their interests, readers will find some of the essays more engaging than others—they vary from Up to Down Bowl on the water racing for Cherry Creek’s headwaters—yet taken all together they provide an eye-open- ing journey through the region that so many of us now call home.

By Mary Taylor Young

Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist’s Prairie Journey

"womb of the earth" when building a "solid" at the Prairie Conservation Center, she sees the prairie’s faces by making native chokecherry wine, and she peeks into the prairie of the past at Rocky Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. Young reveals the prairie’s secrets to her readers by knowledgeably blending its natural and human history. U.D. depending on their interests, readers will find some of the essays more engaging than others—they vary from Up to Down Bowl on the water racing for Cherry Creek’s headwaters—yet taken all together they provide an eye-open- ing journey through the region that so many of us now call home.

Sharin’ of the Green

Approximately 25 members of the Enos Mills Group participated in Denver’s St. Patrick’s Day parade this year. They who participated had a great time walking the 1.7 mile route while getting across an environmental message in a light-hearted way.
Ditch The Bag…

GrassCycling is the natural way to a beautiful lawn

Cut it, leave it, watch it thrive. The secret to a beautiful lawn is out of the bag… GrassCycling! Grass cycling is easy to do, just cut your grass and leave it and it improves the quality of your lawn by keeping nutrients and moisture where they are needed… on the lawn.

Why GrassCycle:

- Save water. Grass is 75% water. Leave it on your lawn.
- Enhance the soil. Short clippings decay rapidly, yet slowly release valuable nutrients to the soil.
- Save time. Say goodbye to taking and bagging and spend an estimated 38% less time on lawn care.
- Save money. Less money is spent on water and fertilizer. Grass is high in nitrogen and other valuable nutrients found in fertilizers.
- Save landfill space. Grass clippings and other yard waste make up 20 to 50% of household waste from March through September. And yard waste is 100% recyclable by GrassCycling, composting, or mulching.

GrassCycling does not cause thatch. Thatch is a brown, spongy material consisting of dead grass stems and roots, and is not caused by leaving grass clippings on the lawn.

How to GrassCycle:

- All mowers can GrassCycle. You don’t need a mulching mower or blade to GrassCycle; how ever, mulching blades that chop grass into small er pieces are available for your gas or electric mower at local hardware stores for about $20.
- Mow frequently. Lawns are healthiest when mowed at a height of 2½ to 3 inches. To get the most from GrassCycling, mow often enough that not more than one third of the grass blade is removed.
- Ask your lawn service. If you use a land- scaping service, ask them to GrassCycle and leave the clippings on your lawn.

For more information on GrassCycling, composting or mulching grass and other yard waste visit our web site at DenverGov.org/Recycle or call us at 720-865-6805.

Compost use saves water

Learn to compost in your own backyard

Denver Urban Gardens, Denver Recycles and Metro Wastewater Treatment Division which are offering FREE backyard composting classes again this year. Compost is an important component of gardening in a drought; it can hold 100 percent of its weight in water, slowly releasing nutrients and water to plants, allowing you to decrease your water use and fertilizer costs.

Sign up for recycling today!

It’s easy, convenient and a great way to help the environment

Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management, offers every-other-week collection of recy- clables to most single-family homes and multi-family buildings with seven or fewer units. All you have to do is visit our web site at www.denvergov.org/denverrecycles to sign up online or call our office at 720-865-6805 and ask to sign up for recycling service. There are no fees to participate!

If you are already signed up for recycling and have two purple bins, but have not been participating lately, you can visit our web site to get your collection schedule information or call us at 720-865-6805 to request a new cal- endar and information on what is collected so that you may begin recycling at home again.

Denver Recycle currently collects alu- minum, cans, clean plastic and plastic film, steel cans (food cans and empty aerosol), glass bottles and jars (green, brown and clear), plastic bottles (only bottles, no tubs and newspapers with inserts for recycling). Recycling has numerous benefits for our community and the environment. Recycling is the first step to handling environmental protection, it creates jobs, conserves natural resources, reduces pollution, saves landfill space and keep our neighborhoods clean and healthy.

Visit our web site at www.denvergov.org/ DenverRecycles to find out more about recycling in Denver.

Wilderness Society honors two Coloradans

Veteran conservationists called “environmental heroes”

On May 20th, The Wilderness Society pre- sented Sameva Stansfield and John Stanford of Colorado Springs with Environmental Hero awards. Stansfield is the founder in part for the new area of South Platte-Plateau. Stanford was recognized for being a key player in the Colorado Wilderness Steering Committee in the 1970s and 1980s, helping to secure passage of Colorado wilderness designations in 1980 and building momentum for the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. Places protected by those bills include the Collegiate Peaks, Mount Sneffels and, Holy Cross Wilderness.

The Wilderness Society regularly recognizes as Environmental Heroes individuals who are making a difference across the country, defending wild places and ensuring that America manages its natural resources responsibly.

Jean and John are outstanding volunteers who have worked hard to protect the environ- ment and Colorado’s wild places,” said Supreme Jones, Four Corners regional director for The Wilderness Society. “Through their vision and leadership, they are helping to make the kind of Colorado in which we all want to live, and of which we can all be proud.

Among her many achievements, Smith was instrumental in organizing citizen pressure groups of more than 100 reading areas on the Pitkin and San Isabel National Forest and BLM Royal Gorge Resource Areas. She has lead the battle of Wild Connections, a citizen manage ment alternative for the promising forest plan revision. One of Smith’s first wilderness projects was hard-drawing maps and editing the Citizens and Wildlands BLM Guidebook. Currently, she is the inventory coordinator and fundraiser for the Ute Arkasaise Society.

At the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition to inventory and secure wilderness protection for national forests and public lands.

DenverRecycles to find out more about recycling in Denver.

Ditch The Bag…

GrassCycling is the natural way to a beautiful lawn.

Compost use saves water.

Learn to compost in your own backyard.

Recycle to find out more about recycling in Denver.

Book Review

The New Transit Town
by Jonathan Metzl & Gordon Ohrland
ed., urbanized country. Though clearly geared towards a professional audience, the book nevertheless holds more diverse appeal in its dry-on review of existing TOD projects. Rather than place the principal of TOD on a pedestal, The New Transit Town thoroughly ana- lyses the failings and successes of a variety of geographic and circumstantially diverse projects. How was San Diego’s Barrio Logan able to get the federal, the local and the community as a whole to agree on a new transit-oriented development? How did the city of Atlanta’s Lindbergh Center imply the need for a new transit-oriented development? How did the city of Atlanta incorporate urban design and green infrastructure as part of the project? The New Transit Town looks at these issues and more to develop a robust framework for evaluating and implementing transit-oriented development projects today.

By Adriana Raudzins

RMC Transportation Coordinator

Transportation has always driven America’s development patterns. It’s not that we don’t have the technology to better serve the needs of the suburban and urban dweller. But today we’re seeing the emergence of a new trend: transit-oriented development. People who are willing to live in cities are seeking to reorient their urban core, or in subur- ban areas, to make our transportation systems more effective. The New Transit Town (Island Press, 2004) offers a thorough picture of the changes taking place in the cities and built environment around the world. The New Transit Town gives a detailed overview of how to create socio- economic TODs in a predominantly auto-oriented professional dryer and is completely biodegradable. Roll up your sleeves and dig in.

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Book Review
The Zen of Gardening in the High and Arid West
by David Wann

Excerpt from The Zen of Gardening in the High and Arid West

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hen I asked master gardener Lana Porter what she liked best about gardening, she told me, “I like what it does for my head. Sometimes, when I’m watering a healthy crop, or planting seeds, or cultivating benchmark plants I’m thinking about anything at all—a radical switch from what I was doing before becomes an effortless reconnection.”

She came to her amens eight or ten years ago, choosing a path of inner mental clarity in her gardens. “People tell me I should take care of my crops more efficiently—with irrigation systems on timers, design fertilizers and pesticides—so I could spend less time out here. But that way of growing disconnects the grower from the garden. The whole point is to spend more time taking care of the plants and less time in front of the TV.”

If gardening at its best is an external expression of an internal process, then that external expression is vibrant rhythms and vibrancies of daily life, some of the expert growers I know do indeed remain Zen masters. They’ve learned that gardening can calm the storms of the mind as much as it reconnects mind with nature. These masters of gardening approach their work with whole bodies and hearts, and a mind that stays on track. They garden in the present as well as the future, knowing that the garden itself is the ultimate product, and that it will take many years to bring it into biological balance. When it comes to gardening in the Great Plains and mountains, the first step is to deal with the cruelties of geography. There’s an invisible line that separates gardens of the plains and mountains from the eastern gardens. Known in geography as the 100th meridian, it cuts the layer of tropical air masses here, creating an ecological desert. East of the Line, farmers grow cotton, a tall grass, and west of the Line, they grow wheat, a short grass, if they’re lucky. Okay, okay, I may be exaggerating a little here, but it’s indisputable that on topographic maps, east is green and the west is brown. From an airplane in midsummer, the same two-toned story, unless you happen to fly over a brief buffeting of green at the foot of the Rockies right after a three-day, flood-like monsoon. So we’re talking biology and meteorology here, not just history. Scientific fact, notjust precipitation-envy.

We gardeners of the high plains and mountains are meteorologically and topographically challenged, that’s the long and short of it. “The wilder weather on the planet,” western landscape expert Jim Koppoch calls the front (easternmost) range of Colorado, “the Arctic front collides with tropical air masses here, creating an ever-changing house of horrors.”

About 150 years ago, U.S. officials inscribed a box over 100,000 square miles of the territory I currently live in, and named it Colorado. Average elevation, 6,800 feet. Average precipitation, about 15 inches, including the most frequent hailstorms in the U.S. Average elevation drops 5 thousand feet in less than half a percent. They concluded it was futile to grow anything worthwhile in this box, that it had its own meteorological characteristics. (Eventually, of course, they inclined “no grass” because most of the Sunbelt, mountain and high plains landscapes.)

In 1889, Lewis and Clark reported to Jefferson and colleagues back east that they had climbed up to that very easternmost mountain, and saw their first hailstorm. Another easterner with an historical shadow, Civil War hero and explorer John Wesley Powell, went so far as to pronounce that the west was too cold and too high to sustain a settled agricultural civilization. “Arctic fronts collide with tropical air masses here, creating an ever-changing house of horrors.”

So here we stand, largely unfit for human habitation. Fortunately, we’re proven wrong, haven’t we? In fact, we’re shell-shocked grin on our faces, digging up roots in our hands, and feet firmly planted on barren, rocky soil.

The question is, are we heroic or pitiful?

Well, either way, here we come. When hailstones the size of river shells drop the sky for a few hours before a dinner party, our first inclination may be to throw childlike tantrums and never garden again, but instead we face up our boots and get out the seed,

David Wann

Peek & Prance

July, August, September 2004

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Book Review

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David Wann

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 giving to the Sierra Club, the Sierra Club’s Kelly Fund.

There are many gift options available, and you can plan a gift to your local chapter.

For more information and specific charitable giving contact:

Suzanne Levy
Assistant Director of Capital Campaigns
600 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 977-8741 or w-8741
slevy@sierraclub.org

Ask the Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,

We live in an apartment complex in Sedona, Arizona. We do not recycle. We take most items to the pick-up in Golden, but they do not accept cardboard or plastic grocery bags. Any suggestions?

Thanks,

S. Wells

Dear Ralph,

Mel and Albert's stores in the metro area accept 40% of the plastic bags (make certain they are handled) with a local manufacturer who makes composite lumber from wood waste and the plastic bags. O'Hanlon, the Albertson stores will have benches near their bag bins consisting of lumber from the metro area.

For cardboard, T-R Recycling (www.trc.com or 303-399-6351).

They accept all cardboard and paperboard at their North Denver location.

You can also look for additional drop sites in the Recycle Guide from Colorado Recycling and the Recycle Colorado Guide (www.coloradorecycles.org or 303-695-6010), also,某些state's or local recycling programs offer similar drop sites. Check with your local or state government for more information.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter

Matt Anderson

The Rocky Mountain Chapter is looking for a new Advertising Manager. The Rocky Mountain Chapter (www.sierraclub.org/rockymountain) is a co-housing community in Golden, a co-housing community. Matt Anderson

Matt Anderson is looking for a new Advertising Manager for the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Some outside sales experience is preferred but not mandatory.

SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS

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Late submissions may be included in the online Rocky Mountain Chapter Calendar. Send your event to outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Please check the Web site – www.rmc.sierraclub.org and then click on Calendar (left menu) – for a complete and up-to-date listing of outings.

In order to participate in 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 www.sierraclub.org/outings/legal.

July 11, Sunday
Deluge Lake Hike: Join the Gay & Lesbian Sierrans for a moderate 12 mile round trip hike inside the Gore Range and Exploits of Wilderness. We will be hiking to Deluge Lake, a beautiful high mountain lake nestled against the craggy peaks of the Gore Range. The lake is definitely one of the most spectacular wilderness areas in Colorado, and you’ll understand why those folks in Gore are so smug about where they live after attending this hike. Please contact Lin Hark (Colorado Springs) at 597-3502 or email lin.hark@rmc.sierraclub.org to guarantee your spot.

July 18-25, Sunday
Circle of the Towers Backpack. This unprecedented three-quarter circle hike in the Continental Divide is hosted by 12,000' high 12 foot peaks, one of Colorado's great new backpacking trips. A classic outing! Contact Tarrison Wells @ tarrison@usa.net to sign up. Please note: you are required to bring a personal cook stove.

July 24, Sunday
Grizzly Peak (a class 4 free climb), hike up for this great escape, contact Jamie Lesisme (303) 726-9044 or email Jamie at jamie@springwind.com for information or to reserve your spot.

July 26-31, Sunday
The Sierra Club staff and our unique environmentalist/both email John moospeg@sierraclub.org.

July 9, Friday
The Sierra singles cos@hike a happy hour and dinner at the Elephant Bar and Restaurant, 7585 N. Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs 80917, 5:30 p.m. Join the gang and other survivors of a fun happy hour and dinner at one of Colorado Springs' great new primer restaurants. Redundant H appy hour drinks and food priced at moderate rates. No RSVP required.

David Hamer, 597-3996

July 10, Saturday
From Colorado Springs, the PPG Sierra Singles will sponsor a hike of Bear Creek Loop in September and a few backcountry trips. All trips will be great views in the foothills just above the town. Moderate 12 miles with about 1,200’ elevation gain. Pre-park for the trailhead, bring plenty of food and drinks afterwards. Carpool, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. RSVP required by Saturday evening. David Hamer, 597-3996.

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July 31, Saturday
Pawnee Peak: This 14,300’ peak in 2002 was also being worked on the supervision of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative and the U.S. Forest Service to build and rehabilitate the summit approach trails.

Contact Dave Harmer (Colorado Springs) at 597-3502 or email Dave.hamer@rmc.sierraclub.org for more information.

July 3-25, Wednesday-Sunday
Capitol Peak Trail Project Trail, GIS returns to the Elk Range for this year’s third annual A-Dot-A-Trail peak project. GIS hosted a 14,300’ peak in 2002 and was also working on the supervision of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative and the U.S. Forest Service to build and rehabilitate the summit approach trails.

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Contact Dave Harmer (Colorado Springs) at 597-3502 or email Dave.hamer@rmc.sierraclub.org for more information.
The PPG, in Colorado Springs, will host a month-long backpack week. This survey trip will be conducted in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention’s Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) and the Colorado Springs area. It will feature the “Wild Things” area and will be open to the public. Participants will be trained on the survey site, and then mapping teams to survey the area. GPS skills will be required. The survey will start from the road in a 1-mile area and will also require that participants drive down to the survey site near Friday night. The hiking will be strenuous, RT distance will be about 3 miles, and there are 10 miles and 10 miles of day hikes. The altitude varies from the lowlands of the city to the high up on the ridge. This hike will allow participants to experience the beauty of colorado’s many natural and cultural features. The hike will be open to the public and will require that participants bring snacks and water. For more information, please contact lamont@sierranet.org or phone 719-385-0045.

RMR Group Meetings:

Tuesday of each month at the RMR office. 303-861-8819 or email ross.vincent@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Inner City Outings:

Wednesday, August 8th, at 6:30 at EMS, 870 S. Colorado Blvd, Glendale, CO 80248. Check the RMR’s website calendar for updated times. This is a great opportunity to hike off the grid and enjoy a great day in the park. Contact Shelly at 303-534-7066 x205. The State of Colorado Parks offers a Windy Creek Wilderness Day Hike for only $3.

North Boulder Park:

 nurture parks for everyone!

Events

June 26, Saturday 5-7 p.m.

Political Fundraiser Join us at the home of M. A. and L. A. for a fundraiser for the Mt. Evans Group. Friends of the Group meet the public. If you are interested please contact Neal Marsh at 970-225-1861 or email nandv@aol.com.

July 19, Thursday of each month at Home State Bank, 4796 S. Brilliant Blvd. in Denver. View nature slides and discuss nature preservation issues. Contact Rich Levy at rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org for more information.

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Inside this issue:

1. Annual auction: change of venue
   Historic Mile High Station expands interest and appeal of fundraiser.

2. Sierra Club endorses John Kerry
   In a year of clear choice, the Senator’s environmental voting record shows that he really “gets it.”

3. Wilderness Act 40th anniversary
   Posters, a handmade quilt, and a wide array of Wilderness Walks celebrate landmark legislation.

4. Coloradoans confront Bush policy
   During president’s Denver visit, Sierrans and other citizens speak out.

5. FasTracks: a plan for the future
   A call to action to build on the proven success of intelligent and responsible transportation alternatives.

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Be a part of our chapter’s success!

We need volunteers to help make a difference for the environment in Colorado. You can help by joining one of these committees:

- **Election Action Committee**
  - Encourage our members to register and vote.

- **Transportation Committee**
  - Help pass the FasTracks Initiative

- **Auction Planning Committee**
  - Help make our auction a success

- **Outings Committee**
  - Plan ways to help people experience the outdoors

- **New Member Committee**
  - Find ways to welcome and engage new Club members.

For information, contact Dan Disner at 303-861-8819 or dan.disner@rmc.sierraclub.org