

5th Annual Auction approaches

By Cindy Nelson, RMC

On October 16, 2004, the Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) will host its 5th annual Wild Places, Open Spaces auction and dinner. This year's theme will pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the national Wilderness Act. Signed

into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, the Act has stood as one of our nation's seminal pieces of environmental legislation, enacted before the "environmental revolution" 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 6 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.

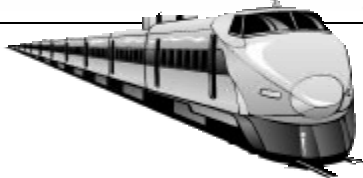
Mile High Station occupies the former Midwest Steel and Ironworks building. At the turn of the century, the building employed hundreds of ironworkers and craftsmen. During World War II, Denverites built and shipped large-scale ship sections for use by the U.S. Navy. Due to the significance of the building and the important role it played in Colorado's history, the State of Colorado's Historic Preservation Officer recently chose 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 noodle bowls to vacation getaways in Honduras. Please contact us (call the Sierra Club office at 303-861-8819) to suggest individuals or businesses that might be willing to donate auction items or serve as event sponsors. We will be happy to follow up on your ideas. We also seek volunteers to help facilitate the auction.

Please accept our invitation to visit this beautiful, historic location, listen to live jazz, and participate in the auction. Proceeds will support local Sierra Club programs, including protection of Colorado's designated wilderness areas and wildlands.

When President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act, he said it was "to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." Honor this noble endeavor; mark your calendar for October 16th and help us celebrate our successes and support our common goal of protecting Colorado's wild spaces and open places.

For more information on the Wild Places, Open Spaces auction, contact Cindy Nelson at 303-861-8818, or cindy.nelson@rmc.sierraclub.org.



CALL TO ACTION

Vote FasTracks YES

What is FasTracks?

FasTracks is a plan to expand the Denver region's transportation options by building out light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit in six of our most congested corridors. The plan includes major improvements in local bus service, 31 new

Park-n-Rides, and 57 new transit stations. Of course, this all comes with a price: a 0.4 percent sales tax increase (or four pennies on a ten-dollar purchase).

Why vote for FasTracks?

Environmentalists, business

executives, and civic leaders all agree that FasTracks is one of the single greatest things we can do to maintain the Denver metro region's high quality of life. FasTracks will provide better access to jobs, affordable housing, and entertainment and cultural centers. This enhanced con-

nectivity is expected to jumpstart our economy while making it easier for us all to get around. Plus, FasTracks will promote smarter growth patterns, discouraging continued sprawl and reducing harmful air pollution emissions. FasTracks has the Sierra Club's full support.

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 our state offer a gift of nature that many of us don't come to appreciate in some way.

Often overlooked, however, is the gift of wind with which Colorado has been graced. There is vast potential within our state for clean and cost-effective renewable wind energy production. Yet this resource remains for the most part untapped.

While existing coal plants already account for over 30,000 tons of smog-forming pollutants added to our air each year, plans for the construction of more such plants are presently on the table. The use of less polluting natural gas for energy production has been on the rise; however, gas prices have demonstrated instability and gas exploration and extraction severely damage our natural landscapes and waterways. Meanwhile, less than 1% of the state's energy needs are derived from renewable sources such as wind power. Why is this the case in a state that ranks 11th nationwide in wind energy potential? The answer, we believe, begins and ends with education and citizen promotion.

This spring, in furtherance of its Clean Energy campaign, Sierra Club sponsored three events to educate and promote renewable energy for Colorado's future. On April 17th, 75 people

Please see CHANGE, page 7



Participants in the Sierra Club-sponsored tour of Xcel's Ponnequin 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.

CLUB MEMBERS ELECT NEW DIRECTORS

Club 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—far more members than have ever voted before.

Voters elected incumbent directors Jan O'Connell, an insurance executive and environmental organizer from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Nick Aumen, a biologist from Loxahatchee, Florida, to a sec-

ond term.

Top vote-getter Lisa Renstrom, an environmental activist from Charlotte, North Carolina, received 141,407 votes. She served on the board from 2001 to 2003. Consumer lawyer Sanjay Ranchod from San Francisco and student David Karpf from Philadelphia were elected for the first time.

The election was widely reported on in the press because of controversial disagreements about the Club's immigration

policy and concerns about the involvement of outside groups.

Sierra Club President Larry Fahn says the grassroots organization's membership sent a clear message through its record voter turnout: "Nearly a quarter of our members have elected active leaders in the Sierra Club who support our core agenda to protect the environment and educate Americans about the destructive environmental practices of the Bush administration."

"Twenty-two percent turnout

is extraordinary," says Renstrom. "We need to find ways to keep that level of participation going."

O'Connell echoes those sentiments. "I campaigned like crazy. I contacted almost 14,000 Club members by phone, by email, by postcard, and in person. My goal is to go back to those people, keep networking, keep them engaged in our work."

For specific vote totals and more information, go to www.sierraclub.org/bod.

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. Here's a great opportunity to exercise and carry an 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 5K) throughout the state in places like Frisco, 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 Housing Justice.



The ongoing event, presented by Washington Mutual, will take place June 5th through August 26th, in local communities throughout Colorado. The 800-mile walk is dedicated to raising awareness about the issue of affordable housing, building local community initiatives for affordable housing and working at the state level for a Housing Trust Fund and other solutions. (Sierra Club has endorsed a national Affordable Housing Trust Fund bill which is sponsored by John Kerry, but hasn't garnered enough votes to pass the Senate—yet).

Each day, walkers will travel distances ranging from 7 to 18.5 miles, sometimes along highways or larger roads, other times along hiking trails. Each day's walk will end with a community potluck and discussion on affordable housing.

ing, where participants will focus on their communities and the prevalent housing issues there, as well as on how that community's situation ties into the larger state picture.

In some communities, 5K community walks will be available for everyone to walk en masse. These walks will feature local affordable housing developments and give families and community members an opportunity to participate in a shorter part of the walk.

Your help is still needed to support the walk. To check out the schedule and see what is planned in your community and how you can help, visit www.peopleswalk.org/schedule.htm.

Got some extra energy? Join lead walkers Blake

Chambliss (RCAC) and Joe Giron (BRI) in walking a whole day between communities. These walks range from 12-18 miles in length. The Day Walks vary in proximity to good fishing or mountain passes, so sign up now for your ideal dates, as space is limited to 10 walkers per day. Register at www.peopleswalk.org.

Would your housing non-profit like an easy fundraiser? Have volunteers, staff and others register to walk, and give them the opportunity to collect pledges from their friends and others to support your housing organization. Details and an application are available at www.peopleswalk.org/pledges.htm.

If you have any questions, please check out www.peopleswalk.org or call (303) 825-3604 to speak with Linnea or Britta.



Senator John Kerry pauses near his home on Nantucket Island, MA, to make a phone call while on his way to get a new inner tube for his bicycle on June 20. Photo by Vincent DeWitt/Cape Cod Times



Dear Peak & Prairie Editorial Staff,

Your new face-lifted Peak and Prairie is a stunner! I love the greener, more vibrant look of the masthead and the entire layout, which is inviting and appealing! Also, the text was really well-edited and tight. I read the P&P from cover to cover. I loved the wolf story, found the Green Resolutions story helpful and the Scoop Poop story both amusing and useful.

The poop story in fact may prove useful to me in my capacity as a member of the Cheyenne Commons Board, custodians of the Stratton Open Space, here in the Springs. We have a major dog poop problem on the SOS. I thought maybe it was an eyesore, but good for the plants and was dismayed to learn that quite the opposite is the case.

This relates to the fact I have always been interested in the scarab/dung beetle. We used to see these large beetles in Africa, neatly and industriously rolling up elephant dung into the working order of a perfect sphere. The Egyptians, as you know, worshiped the scarab beetle.

Well, it turns out that we, here in Colorado, have members of the order (smaller in size) and found around pocket gopher and prairie dog mounds as well as on ranches. I also learned from some web research that some parks use dung beetles to clean up canine poop.

I now have a call in to Leave No Trace (thanks to your article). I want to find out what people know about this resource and where it's been used. One question would be: "Do the beetles concentrate exclusively on their chosen source of food and shelter for their hatching young?" In other words, do they leave the surrounding plant life alone, etc.?

So you can see where all this is leading and how the article has proved its interest and potential usefulness.

Sincerely,
Ruth Obee, Colorado Springs

Dear Layout Editor,

I just wanted to write a quick note to congratulate you on the fabulous face-lift of Peak&Prairie. I did the layout for the newsletter for 3 issues in 2002-03 and never had the guts to really take it where it needed to be. You have.

I especially like the Optima choice for headlines. I also like what looks like a mix of black and the Pantone green in some cases to get that extra rich color. However, it looks like there's some press misregistration and some of the small reversed letters are filling in. Small stuff though, considering all the junk you got rid of.

Overall, terrific unified construction and the photo headlines are a great addition.

Anyway, best wishes. I remember wondering if anyone noticed stuff like this when I was doing it, so I wanted to pass along that I appreciate it. Great work!

Tom DeMoulin, Denver

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:

- Transportation Committee
- Auction Planning Committee
- Staff Management Committee
- Outings Committee
- Energy Committee
- Legislative Volunteers
- New Member Committee

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

Sierra Club endorses John Kerry

May 11, 2004

Memo to: All Members

From: Larry Fahn, Sierra Club President, Scott Taylor, Sierra Club Political Committee Chair

Today we are proud to announce the Sierra Club's endorsement of John Kerry for President of the United States.

This year the choice for President cannot be more clear. We are faced with a choice between the most anti-environmental President ever and a true friend who would bring to the office a dedication to improving all issues facing the environment.

The last four years have been a disaster for the environment: an outright assault on 30 years of environmental progress, selection of staunchly anti-environmental judges, backroom deals with polluting industries—the list goes on. It is time for a true environmentalist in the White House.

On basically every issue John Kerry has long been in agreement with the Club. By any objective evaluation of the issues, Senator Kerry has been with us, and with the environment, more than 95% of the time over his long career. His is a long, consistent record of environmental advocacy. In fact, John Kerry has the highest lifetime rating of any nominee ever from a major party—it is not even close.

Our Political Committee's interview team grilled all seven of the Democratic contenders who returned the Sierra Club's questionnaire in personal interview sessions lasting 90 minutes. (President Bush did not return his questionnaire). Senator Kerry and the Committee discussed trade policy, energy, sprawl, forest policy. Senator Kerry had an amazing command of the issues and gave sharp, in-depth answers to every question.

At the end of the interview, the team was unanimous in its conclusion, "this guy really gets it; he would make a great environmental president."

The SCPC Presidential Committee, chaired by Joan Willey of Maryland, will be running an in-depth campaign to help elect John Kerry. Please contact your local chapter Political Chair or political.desk@sierraclub.org for more information.

For an in-depth look at John Kerry's platform, please go to www.johnkerry.com/pdf/long_enviro.pdf.

To volunteer directly with the Kerry campaign, please go to www.johnkerry.com/signup/enviros.php.

We urge you to get involved in this campaign to elect John Kerry, a friend, to the White House. Wouldn't that be a nice change?

CALL TO ACTION

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Members: if you have not voted recently or if you have moved since you last voted,

BE SURE TO REGISTER AND

VOTE

Download a form to register at:
www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.htm
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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View from the CHAIR

GREG CASINI, RMC CHAIR



Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks

I'm writing to invite you to join me at 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, lecture, 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 that they know enough to really talk with confidence about what's going on. The theme of our first run of gatherings is "Smokestacks, Impacts, and Talkbacks" because we are focusing on Colorado's air quality and its effect on our lives. We'll provide information on the impact of Bush administration air quality policies, we'll share the impact of those policies on our lives, and we'll learn how to talk about those policies and their impact on others in our communities.

Much of the public is unaware of the policy changes that the Bush administration is advocating which would actually allow higher levels of mercury in our air, and increase other pollutants which contribute to asthma. In these gatherings we will share our experiences, like the difficulties friends or family have with asthma and other respiratory dis-

eases, learn that there are better ways to keep our air clean and healthy, and have an opportunity to participate in activities that will make a difference. We'll leave Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks with the confidence of knowing that we have good information and new ways of sharing that information with our neighbors.

In such important times, we must tap our most valuable resource, our members. 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. If we talk to one another about what we can do, and get involved, we can create change for the better.

Please contact us at 303-861-8819 or visit our website at www.rmc.sierraclub.org to find out when a Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks event is scheduled in your community, or if you would like to host a gathering.

I look forward to seeing you at a Smokestacks, Impacts and Talkbacks event soon!

Sincerely,

Greg Casini,
RMC Chair

Southwest office welcomes new Associate Field Representative

By Susan LeFever
Chapter Director

Adriana Raudzens has been promoted to be the Sierra Club's Associate Field Representative for the Southwest office. As part of the national Sierra Club office, she will focus on federal lands in Colorado and federal legislation affecting Colorado, and will represent the Club on many coalitions.

Adriana started with the Rocky Mountain Chapter in June of 2003, working as our Transportation Organizer. 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 educate them about the benefits of transit. Adriana has been a key player in organizing volunteer signature gatherers 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 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.

ADRIANNA
RAUDZENS

What's happening at the CHAPTER OFFICE?

SUSAN LEFEVER, CHAPTER DIRECTOR



It seems like every quarter I write to you about staff changes. I guess we are a very dynamic organization! This time, I am happy to announce that we have hired a fundraiser for our office, Cindy Nelson. Cindy is a Certified Meeting Professional, and has experience with recruiting sponsors, planning events, writing grants, and working with volunteers. She received her Bachelor's degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango. Cindy worked previously with the American Solar Energy Society in Boulder, where she helped plan international conferences and meetings.

Cindy will be working to increase the Chapter's fundraising in the areas of major donors, sponsors, and foundations. She will be working with the Auction Committee to help take the event to the next level. Cindy is working out of the Denver office, and can be reached at 303-861-8819, or at cindy.nelson@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Thank you to Ellen Cooney who worked for the Sierra Club for 8 weeks in Pueblo as a Researcher & Organizer on issues related to the proposed Xcel coal-fired power plant. Ellen organized several public events and developed educational information. She was able to create an important forum for people to

raise their concerns about adding to Pueblo's air pollution, and helped to build the group's capacity.

With Adriana moving up to the Field Office (see related story), we will be looking to hire a new Transportation Organizer soon, which is also exciting.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will be returning from my first real vacation since I started this job—three weeks in France. I hope that you all are able to keep some balance in your lives.

"Do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am—a reluctant enthusiast, a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for natural land and the west; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still there... Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound men with their hearts in a safe deposit box, and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards."

—Ed Abbey

The editors wish to publish the following correction

I'd like to make a correction to your April/May/June issue. In it you had a photograph and short article about the Craig Power Plant in northwest Colorado.

The text mentioned how this plant was one of the dirtiest in Colorado. While for the dates shown (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 other owners of the Craig Station power plant in Moffat County, Colorado, in exchange for a requirement that the owners expend over \$160 million in pollution control upgrades, reduce harmful emissions by more than 10,000 tons per year, deposit \$1.5 million into a renewable energy fund and pay a \$500,000 civil penalty to the United States Treasury.

With the announcement, Jane

Toothaker, local Sierra Club board member in Steamboat Springs, noted: "The Yampa Valley will now have the two cleanest coal-fired power plants in the state, and we will have significantly reduced their impact on the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area."

These improvements will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 90%.

This effort followed on the Sierra Club's lawsuit aimed at the nearby Hayden power plant, which forced a \$130 million cleanup after a federal judge ruled that Public Service Company of Colorado (now Excel Energy) had violated emission limits over 19,000 times.

These efforts were overlooked by Peak & Prairie, thereby diminishing the hard work of all Sierra Club volunteer efforts.

Sincerely,

Richard Levy
Chairman, Trappers Lake Group

Carl Pope discusses new book in Denver



Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope autographs a copy of his new book concerning the George Bush presidency at the Tattered Cover in Denver on June 14. A large crowd attended the discussion and signing.

Carl Pope filled the house at his talk/book signing at the Tattered Cover in LoDo on June 14th. More than one hundred people crammed the room to hear Pope discuss his new book, *Strategic Ignorance*, which takes aim at the continuing environmental recklessness of the Bush Administration. When asked how the Sierra Club could help turn out environmental voters, Pope responded: "This year is about motivating, not persuading. It's about turning out 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*.

Sierra Club People

■ Bert Melcher, the Sierra Club's Transportation Committee Chair, has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

It was presented at an awards dinner on April 14th in Denver, and recognized his outstanding contributions to the region.

■ Congratulations to Steve Smith—former Sierra Club staffer—on his position as the new Associate Regional Director of The Wilderness Society—4 corners office. Contact him at Steve_smith@twso.org or call

303-650-5818 x106.

■ Indian Peaks Group Chair Steve Welter has been named to the national committee on Engaging Our Members.

■ Goodbye and thank you to Bruce Driver, who is leaving Western Resource Advocates, and a warm welcome to Jim Martin as incoming Executive Director.

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



Charlie's listserver profile du jour: RMC-CONS-ENERGY

By Charlie Oriez
RMC Information Technology Committee

Did you know about the Renewable Energy Conference? How about the fight over the proposed Xcel coal-fired power plant in Pueblo? Have you gotten connected with the people circulating the renewable energy ballot peti-

tions, or contacted Mayor Hickenlooper to support the energy efficient building code in Denver? Did you even know about these issues?

You would have, if you had subscribed to the Chapter's Energy Committee discussion list, RMC-CONS-ENERGY. Although the volume of traffic is low (less than one message per day on average), this discussion list is the place to be if

you want to work on energy issues in the state of Colorado. To join it, go to <http://rmc.sierraclub.org/listserv.shtml>, find RMC-CONS-ENERGY, click on the icon for joining the list, and join the 195 other energy activists in the state of Colorado working for energy conservation, and to reduce our dependency on strip-mined coal and Middle Eastern oil.

Now or never:

Getting a grip on off-road vehicles.

■ Forest Service prepares to tackle ATV, dirt bike destruction.

By Aaron Clark
Responsible Motorized Recreation Campaign Coordinator, Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance (SRCA)

The failure to effectively manage off-road vehicle use is one of the four greatest threats to our national forests, according to Dale Bosworth, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. In his 2003 Earth Day speech, Bosworth confirmed the environmental destruction and antagonism caused by irresponsible off-road vehicle use: "We're seeing more and more erosion, water degradation, and habitat destruction. 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."

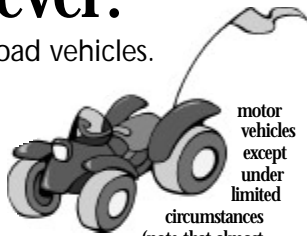
Now the USFS says it will take national action to control problems caused by dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other off-road vehicles.

The USFS is proposing to amend its regulations governing off-road vehicle use. This is a huge opportunity for the conservation, hiking, hunting, climbing, mountain biking, equestrian, fishing, and bird-watching communities to make it clear that ill-managed off-road vehicle use is degrading our recreational experience and fundamentally destroying natural values, including the last remaining roadless areas that we treasure. Moreover, it is imperative that we send a strong message to the USFS to restore balance to our national forests by restricting the use of ATVs and other off-road vehicles to confined areas expressly designed for their use.

Strong reforms are needed to protect America's forests from eroded soil, polluted rivers, lakes and streams, and decimated wildlife habitat, 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



motor vehicles except under limited circumstances (note that almost 70% of national forests already disallow cross-country motorized travel).

- Authorize ATV and dirt bike use only on roads and off-road vehicle routes specifically designated as open for such use.

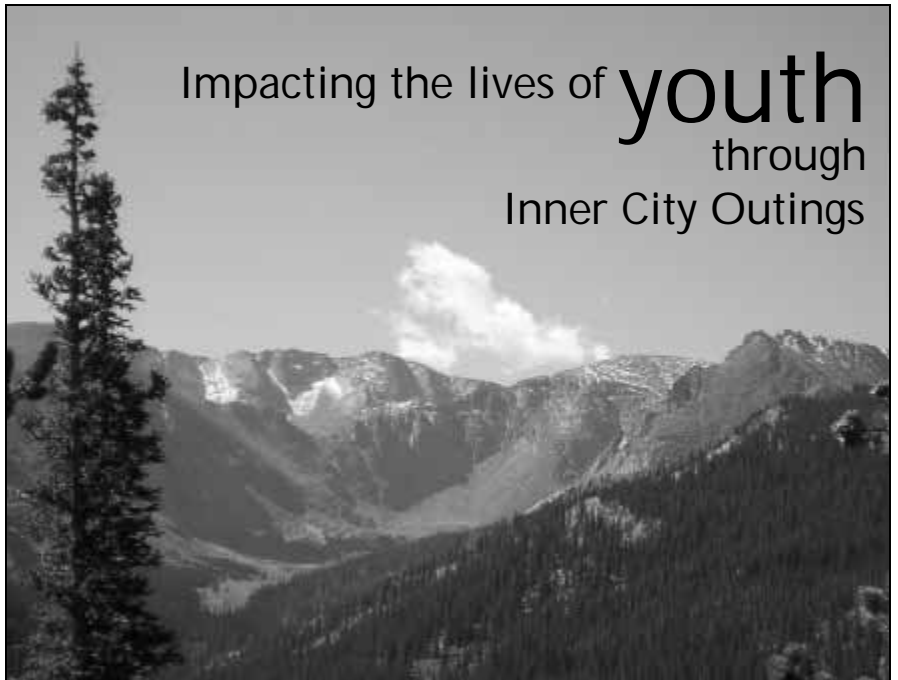
■ ■ ■
We think that the Forest Service (FS) needs to do much more to ensure that our national forests are not permanently degraded by increasing numbers and types of off-road vehicles. It is critical that the FS include additional measures in the final rule to protect public lands, wildlife and other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

- Establish a two-year timeframe by which routes must be designated for off-road vehicle use.

- Designate off-road vehicle routes based on sound science, site-specific analysis, balanced public participation, and do not simply designate unauthorized renegade 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 funded, implemented and used to determine appropriate levels of continued use.

■ ■ ■
The USFS opened up a 60-day public comment period upon the release of the draft last month. To affect this rulemaking process, concerned citizens must make their voices heard. During this comment period, it is critical that you 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/cmc/conservation, or contact Aaron at 303-650-5818 x113 or email aaron_clark@twos.org.



Impacting the lives of youth through Inner City Outings

By Ford Church
Co-Chair, Inner City Outings

My parents and grandparents helped instill an ethic of service within me at a very young age. While I was growing up in my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana, my mother helped organize city cleanups, raised money for school-based health clinics, and recently coordinated tutors for inner-city school children in New Orleans. My family's dedication to service definitely rubbed off on me and I continue to be inspired by people who make personal sacrifices for others and give back to the community.

Because of my love for the outdoors and my personal commitment to service, I was drawn to Inner City Outings (ICO) immediately. ICO provides low-income children from the inner city with an opportunity to explore the outdoors—something many of us take for granted. It seemed like the per-

fect blend of adventure, environmental stewardship, and service I was seeking. In 2001, I took the initiative to become a Trip Leader. Since then, I have been leading trips with ICO and have had the pleasure of taking dozens of middle school students on adventures into the mountains. We have gone canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snow tubing. Although I'm busy with my professional life, there always seems to be enough time to sacrifice one Saturday a month to help give youth an opportunity to explore the mountains. I was shocked to learn that many young people in Colorado stare at the distant mountains every day, but have never been out of their neighborhood.

The ICO program is expanding across Colorado, presently touching the lives of youth in Denver, Colorado Springs, Summit County, and Lafayette. Nevertheless, we are constantly looking for new Trip

Leaders—those who are passionate about exploring the outdoors with youth and looking for an opportunity to give back. George Bernard Shaw once said, "My life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it off to future generations."

If this resonates with you and you would like information about becoming a Trip Leader or volunteer with Inner City Outings, please contact Melody Cheung, ICO Volunteer Coordinator, via email at melody.cheung@rmc.sierraclub.org. More information about Inner City Outings is also available on line at www.sierraclub.org/ico.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a free organization that helps bring kids into the wilderness that can't afford to go often or at all. With the Sierra Club I learned how to ski, as did many others that went on the four-day hut trip, which the Sierra Club Inner City Outings paid for entirely on their own.

I want to thank everybody that helped on the trip and everybody who works with the Sierra Club.

The hike up was four and a half miles, taking somewhere from five to eight hours. It was intense, but the support to keep going is what brought me to the top. I learned a lesson from the hike that I can use in later life. The lesson is that it is

not your strength that matters, it is your will, because if you set a goal for yourself and try as hard as you can and have your mind set on your goal, you will reach it sooner or later.

When we got up to the hut, the view was wonderful and the places to ski and sled were great and fun. Also, the lesson of being responsible took place in things like cleaning for the group after a meal and gathering snow to make water. I helped out as much as I could, because I knew that to help out the group is a way I could help out myself.

On the hut trip I learned multiple lessons. These are lessons I can use in later life. If you read this

article close you see what the lessons are, but this article is not just about lessons, it is about the joy. The Sierra Club Inner City Outings brought me outdoors, and without them I would have never gone to Winter Park or on the Hut Trip. I have many things to be thankful for, finding out about Inner City Outings.

I want to thank Dan R., Dan D., Bob, Sally, and Kathy for all their support and for taking me on the hut trip.

Thank you,

Musa Zareie
P. S.1 Charter School
6th grade



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

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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 prompted by quality of life issues, not monetary return. I am a Sierra Club member & am not a realtor and will not profit from this ad in any material sense. Call Maris at 303-789-1087.

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Array of events marks Wilderness Act 40th anniversary

By Lee Lambert,
Vice Chair, Mount Evans Group

On September 3rd, 1964, President Lyndon 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 40th anniversary of the signing, several 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. Instead of providing sanctuaries from our busy, mechanized world, sources for clean drinking water and air, not to mention crucial animal and plant habitat, there is a concerted effort to isolate wilderness areas and restrict the consideration of new ones. This is especially true on the Western Slope, where non-protected, still wild areas are being "saturated with energy leases."

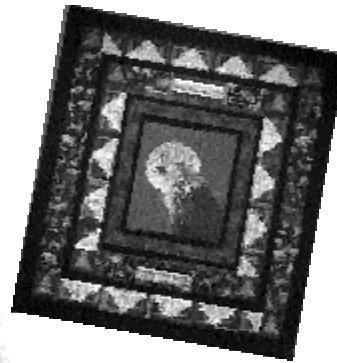
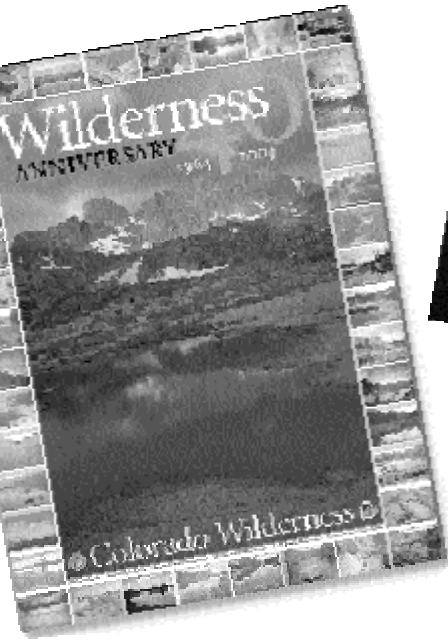
"For every gas well that gets put in, there is an infrastructure—there's a road, there's a pipeline."

"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 to allow for mechanized recreation.

Stopping the assault if this administration is reelected will be nearly impossible, so now is the time. Show your support for the preservation of our wilderness system by getting your group and yourselves involved in the 40th Anniversary Wilderness Walks and events here in Colorado. Volunteers are needed. Many of the events are still in the planning stage, so your help would be greatly appreciated.

However, if you are unable to volunteer, please support these events by attending. Contact information and supporting agencies for these events can be found at www.wilderness.net. Proceeds go to wilderness education programs on a local level.



"In wildness
is the
preservation
of the
world."

—Henry David Thoreau

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

Wilderness Events—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

Walk for Wilderness—Gunnison—October 1, 2, 2004

Wilderness Events—Durango—September 9, 2004

Wilderness Events—Steamboat—TBA

Walk for Wilderness—Grand Lake—TBA

Walk for Wilderness—Winter Park—TBA

The Evergreen Walk for Wilderness—September 18, 2004

Sponsored by The Wilderness Society, Evergreen Safeway, Colorado Fourteens Initiative, Colorado Mountain Club, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Mount Evans Group, Fox River Mills, Evergreen Parks and Recreation District and Jefferson County Open Space in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, The National Parks Services and the United States Forest Service.

The Evergreen Walk is a family event, featuring a 5-mile walk from Bergen Park on the Pioneer Trail through Elk Meadows 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 Lake House to

return you to your vehicles.

The Evergreen Safeway will have a water station during the walk and free snacks and beverages afterwards at the Lake House.

At the completion of the walk, participants will be treated to festivities at the Lake House, including keynote speakers, live music, wilderness education displays and cross-cut saw demonstrations, as well as Leave No Trace clinics.

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 Mount Evans Group. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Walk on September 18th. You do not need to be present to win.

Mount Evans Group is also selling the beautiful 40th Anniversary Colorado Wilderness Poster by John Fielder 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 September 1st, and \$20.00 on Walk Day. Each participant will receive a "Walk for Wilderness" t-shirt, food and drink coupons, drawing tickets and a packet of wilderness information. You can register children under 12 for a reduced rate of \$10.00 (\$12.00 on walk day) with a walk t-shirt or \$5.00 (\$7.00 on walk day) without a t-shirt.

I challenge you and your groups to get involved and show your support for wilderness preservation. Tell two people you know who aren't Sierra Club members about these events. They are wonderful opportunities for people to learn about our Wild Lands and the reason we need to protect them.

Who knows, you just might change a few more votes in November.

For more information, to register or to visit the participating sponsors, please go to MEG's section of the Chapter Web site at www.mcsierraclub.org/meg

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

Looking for Ibis Everywhere

By Sandra McNew

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 one hundred blackbirds
garnish a cottonwood greening
up 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. 19-22.

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 and features festival participants dressed as mushrooms, spores, and other elements of the mycological world.

The Festival's second annual "Mushroom Cook-off Feast" 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 festivalgoers will dine on the mushroom dishes.

Experienced guides will lead daily fungus 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 mush-

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 Metzner, Ph. D., author,

"Teonanacotl: the Sacred Mushroom of Visions"

■ Dr. Emanuel Salzman, Co-editor of Mushroom Poisoning, on "Mushroom Poisoning"

Complete information about the Festival program, registration, lodging, and travel is available on the Festival's web site: www.shroomfestival.com Or write Fungophile, Attn. Mushroom Festival, Box 480503, Denver, CO, 80248-0503. 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 303-292-1524

Fungophile
P.O. Box 480503, Denver, Colorado, 80248-0503, (303) 296-9359
www.shroomfestival.com



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Change: Events educate, act as call to action

continued from page 1

participated in a tour of Xcel's Ponnequin Wind Farm on the Colorado-Wyoming border. On the trip up I-25, attendees were treated to a lecture by, among others, Bob Thresher, Director of the National Wind Technologies Center. Once at the wind farm, folks got an up-close look at the instruments of renewable energy production, standing directly beneath the 44 impressive turbines while listening to Michelle Edwards of Xcel Energy give Xcel's take on the present and future of wind energy in Colorado.

On April 24th, 22 people took part in a biodiesel bus tour of Denver, upon which RMC Air Quality Chair Mike Mueller detailed some of the unique pollution problems—and viable renewable solutions—facing the metro area and the Front Range. The tour included a visit to the Cherokee Power Plant in North Denver, and also featured a visit to the Welby Air monitoring station, at which participants were given a first-hand glance at how the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment monitors air conditions at the facility.

The two above events culminated in a May 1st rally and walk for renewable energy, held at the newly constructed, green certified University of Denver Law Building. Following a speech by renewable energy consultant Tim Olsen, those participating in the walk canvassed the university neighborhood talking to people about Sierra Club's local renewable energy objectives. Over 150 area residents signed cards addressed to Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. These cards supported the inclusion of a renewable energy standard in the forthcoming agreement renewal between the City of Denver and Xcel Energy for the provision of Denver's energy needs. Sierra Club is advocating a standard whereby



Denver pollution tour attendees pose on the east side of the Cherokee Power Plant in North Denver on April 24th.

20% of the state's energy needs will be served by renewable energy resources by the year 2020.

Many states and municipalities across the nation with less ideal wind resources than Colorado have already taken upon themselves to implement such measures. In a state such as ours, with such vast wind energy potential, we owe it to ourselves and our families to develop and become more reliant on clean, reliable and cost-effective energy sources such as wind

power. Why continue to exploit those finite natural gifts that damage and disrupt our environment when we have at our disposal a gift that fulfills our needs in a clean, affordable manner and keeps on giving?

To learn more about renewable options in Colorado and Sierra Club's Clean Energy Campaign, visit <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/energy/library.shtml> or contact John Rosapepe at john.rosapepe@sierraclub.org.



Sierra Club would like to thank Odwalla Juice Co. for their generous contributions to our May 1 event.

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) 861-8819 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.

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



During President Bush's June 1st visit to Denver, Sierra Club members and fellow Coloradoans 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. Chapter Director Susan LeFever and others reasoned that the development of cleaner energy production could benefit the state's economy, environment and health.



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.

Entry rules: You may send up to 5 of your best original shots at a time. You may enter as often as you like. Submissions should be prints no larger than 8 x 10 inches. Include a description of the photo with your name, address, and phone number. Include any pertinent technical information such as shutter

speed, aperture, filters, etc. Submission 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.

FASTTRACKS – A transit plan for our future

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.



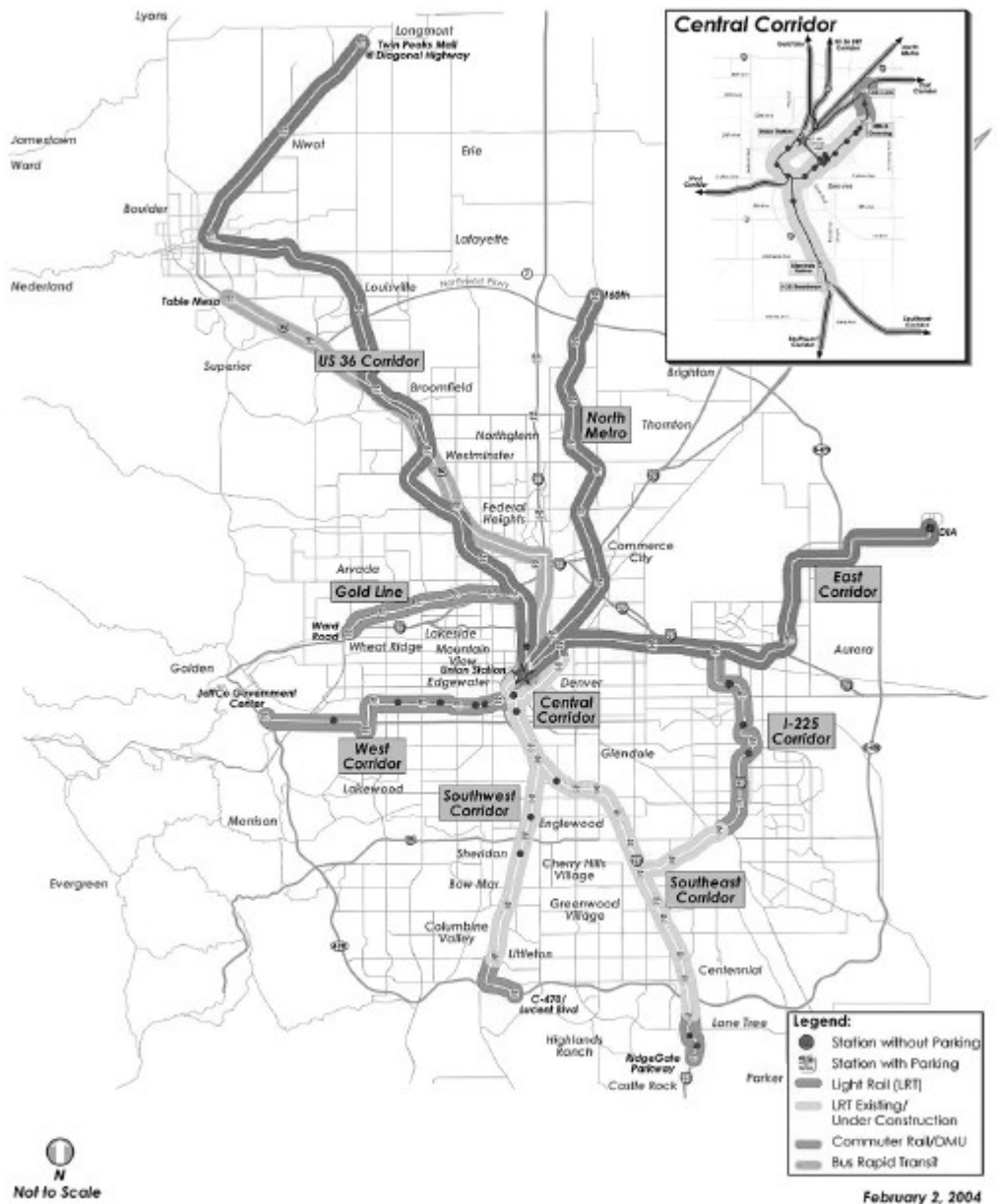
FasTracks, the nuts and bolts

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



Time savings on FasTracks 2025

	Peak hour travel time to downtown Denver with FasTracks (in minutes)		Peak hour average operating speeds (miles per hour)	
	Drive alone	train/transit	Drive alone	train/transit
US-36 Rail Corridor from Longmont	133	61	14.9	41.7
North Metro from 160th Ave.	112	41	11.4	37.0
East Corridor from DIA	48	39	30.1	43.8
I-225 Corridor from Aurora C. Center	76	40	20.5	22.6
SE Extension from Ridgegate PW	96	43	12.1	27.1
SW Extension from Lucent/Plaza	97	31	9.5	30.8
West Corridor from Jeffco Gov. Ctr.	57	39	17.1	24.8
Gold Line from Ward Road	55	31	13.0	26.6
Central Corridor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

*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.

“FasTracks is essential if the metro region is to enjoy a high quality of life, better travel choices, and improved access to jobs and entertainment for all of us. It’s the smartest way to get the best economics in moving people and goods, and it’s the only way to reduce land-consuming sprawl.”

— Bert Melcher, RMC Transportation Chair and first RTD Board Chair.

Transit, the success story



If there’s one thing Southwest Light Rail line riders all agree on, it’s that there isn’t enough parking at light rail stops. Why? Because 18,000 people ride Denver’s light rail system daily! Denver’s existing 16 miles of light rail have proven an enormous success, with ridership 70% over initial projections. What’s more, RTD has built all three light rail projects on time and on budget. No wonder RTD was named #1 Transit Agency in the U.S. in 2003.

Air pollution



FasTracks will displace around 474 thousand miles of vehicle travel on Denver’s highways and streets each day. This vehicle travel reduction will reduce our air pollution by a significant amount. FasTracks will specifically reduce carbon monoxide, soot, and some smog forming pollutants. Currently, Denver violates federal smog levels and could be near violation of soot standards by 2025. FasTracks can help keep Denver within safe, clean air standards and protect our children’s health.

Sprawl



Land in the Denver metro area is being developed at two to three times the rate of population growth. But FasTracks can put an end to the sprawl that encroaches on our open spaces and inflates infrastructure costs. With 57 new transit stations, FasTracks will encourage developers to invest in existing urban areas and build more efficiently, saving up to 13,000 acres of land from development. That’s because transit centers, as easy places for residents, workers, and shoppers to access, are more desirable and profitable than other properties. The more resources we invest in our existing urban and town centers, the more opportunity we have to create a sense of place that is both functional and livable.



The core of City Place in Englewood includes the rehabbed Foleys department store as the new municipal offices, library, and art gallery. The focal point is a town green with new mixed use housing that hides parking and brings buildings up to the sidewalk with retail and offices on the ground floor. This creates a new pedestrian environment adjacent to the light rail station on the site of the former Cinderella City Mall and parking lots.

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-oriented 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 reinvented along arterials accessed by bus rapid transit.

This will encourage more infill development, providing an alternative 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 single use zoning, typified by single family houses, isolated apartment 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.



Littleton rail

TODs can provide part of this diversity to maturing suburbs by creating urbane, functioning environments which are, ideally, higher-density mixed use, pedestrian-oriented developments 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 redevelop the vacant Cinderella City mall in 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 walkable, 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.

NEO-COLONIAL COLORADO: Xcel's Plan for Pueblo

Classic nineteenth-century economic colonialism is alive and well in Colorado. What else would you call it when a big corporation decides to locate its dirtiest industrial process in a distant, economically distressed rural area, so that it can spend the next half-century or more exploiting local resources and polluting the local environment in order to produce a product the locals don't really need? The product, of

course, is intended for export and sale elsewhere, leaving only a tiny fraction of the wealth generated for the benefit of the host community.

That's what Minnesota-based Xcel Corporation is proposing to do in southern Colorado. Even as they convert coal-fired power plants to natural gas at home, Xcel proposes to more than double the capacity of its Comanche power plant complex in Pueblo by building a new 750-

megawatt coal-fired power plant adjacent to the two existing coal-fired units already operating there. The power from this new facility would be used primarily to feed the sprawling northern front range metroplex and places beyond.

Old coal-fired power plants like the ones Xcel operates in Pueblo are among the worst polluters in the nation. Building new ones is a mistake anywhere, not just in Pueblo.

Given what we know about the problems they cause and the alternatives available, they simply don't make sense in this day and age.

- They commit host communities like Pueblo to 19th-century power generation methods until well past the middle of the 21st century—hardly a forward-thinking approach.

- They generate huge amounts of avoidable pollution.

- They contribute to global warming and make it much more difficult to address the substantial national and global security threats and the significant public health problems that global warming presents.

- They sap local resources like water in this drought-stricken, semi-arid area.

- They limit options as communities like Pueblo struggle to build sustainable local economies.

- They all but guarantee higher utility bills for their customers in the long run.

- They send the product they produce and the overwhelming bulk of the money they generate to somewhere else, leaving only limited benefits and lots of problems behind.

Unfortunately, in hard-pressed rural communities like Pueblo, the long-term downside tends to go unnoticed in the desperate scramble for jobs and revenues.

Local officials in Pueblo are practically giddy with delight at the prospect of the additional tax revenues the plant would bring. In fact, both city and county officials have offered to waive half of the normal property taxes Xcel would pay during the first ten years of the new plant's operation in order to "attract" Xcel and its new plant. Never mind that Pueblo is the only place in Colorado that Xcel could reasonably hope to build such a facility without significant additional infrastructure costs.

Local construction workers want and need the jobs. Xcel says the construction process would require about a thousand workers, far more than Pueblo can supply locally. They reject the notion that modern, cleaner, safer energy production methods would also provide jobs without a lot of the negatives, citing a litany of excuses for their insistence on burning coal.

The inevitable result, if Xcel gets its way, will be a classic local boom-bust cycle. For a few years, the local economy will flourish, but when the construction work is over and the imported labor force leaves, the local

economy will take a nose dive. The forty permanent jobs that Xcel says its new plant will provide will barely be noticeable.

Adding to the intensity of the Xcel boom-bust cycle, the construction of the new power plant would roughly coincide with the construction of a large, new, Sierra-Club-supported, low-pollution, chemical weapons destruction facility that the Army will build at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, just east of town. That project, too, will require about a thousand construction workers at the peak of construction. The Army's chemical

weapons plant will operate for a couple of years. Then, when the chemical weapons are gone, the base will close and the Army will leave.

Two other smaller new facilities—a proposed cement plant and a private prison—could also be under construction during the same time frame. These other new facilities will provide a few permanent jobs, but won't begin to make up for the loss of construction jobs when those workers move on. And when the realities of the inevitable economic downturn begin to set in, local leaders typically panic. They begin making really dumb decisions in an effort to stop the decline, only making problems worse as the downward spiral and the accompanying environmental damages begin to feed on themselves.

That is one very depressing, but likely, future scenario for Xcel's target colony in southern Colorado. However, it doesn't have to happen that way. You and the Sierra Club can help to change that future for the better by insisting on smarter energy strategies for 21st century Colorado—renewable energy, energy efficiency and other options that can help Pueblo and the rest of Colorado build sustainable local economies, while northern front range communities get smarter about growth and sprawl, and Xcel gets smarter about its role in this state's energy future.

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 Itkonen.

Science lesson plans inspired by naturalist John Muir now available

By Harold Wood
Coordinator, Sierra Club
John Muir Education Committee

The Sierra Club announces new standards-aligned Science lesson plans inspired by, and using John Muir's adventures and explorations. John Muir was the famed naturalist, explorer, writer, conservationist, co-founder of the Sierra Club, renowned for his exciting adventures in California's Sierra Nevada, among Alaska's glaciers, and world-wide travels in search of nature's beauty. As a writer, he taught the people of his time and ours the importance of experiencing and protecting our natural heritage.

Learning about John Muir's life

can serve as a launching pad to science-based environmental studies through plant and animal habitats, ecosystems, earthquakes, avalanches, glaciers, geology, weather, biodiversity, and forests, as we discover that, as John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

The Science lesson plans are the latest installment in the John Muir Study Guide, a K-12 curriculum guide for implementing California Education Code Section 37222 and celebrating John Muir's birthday each April 21. While the original study guide is focused on history and social science, the new 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 contain subject matter relevant outside California.

The new Science lesson plans were written by Janet Wood, M.S. Geoscience Education, with the John Muir Education Committee of the Sierra Club.

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

http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/lessons/science.

For more information, contact Harold Wood at (559) 739-8527, or harold.wood@sierraclub.org.

Volunteers celebrate as Rox vs. Sox



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 Obee

We are celebrating the birth of a cub,
the return of the northern gray wolf.
Dancing in the lambent light
of the full moon, mesmerized by the star,
feinting with his shadow in the plush,
glinting snow, the gray wolf bays, pirouettes
to the enchanted tune of an Andean flute.

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. What man has done,
he can undo, redressing the imbalance,
returning to the whole.
Listen to the harmony!

Ruth Obee's recent book *A Sense of Place* 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 Sense of Place* 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.



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.

ONCE, as a COYOTE

By Frank Montarelli

I wasn't ever a wolf,
But a coyote, I've been.
Roaming with resolve,
Hunting on the run.

If ever I were happy,
It was as a coyote.
Alone but free,
Footloose in the hills.

I wish to again be a coyote,
Hunting hungry, confident.
Then I could run again,
In the sun and wind and rain.

What my eyes could see
On that distant horizon:
The sky was bluer, then,
When I was a coyote.

I moved far and ever swift,
As the air flowed clean
And deep into my lungs,
When I was a coyote.

My life was simple, then,
When I was a coyote.
And through the heat,
I hunted in darkness.

But against the cold
My blood ran hot,
When I was a coyote,
Long before I was old.



PHARMCROPS NEAR STERLING?

By Suzanne Wuertel
Chair, RMC Genetic
Engineering Committee

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

Last year, CDA decided to let the French company Meristem plant corn making a pancreatic enzyme near Holyoke (exact locations are never revealed, so no one knows if their neighbor is growing the experimental crop). Luckily, Meristem backed out, so no one had to wonder if wildlife or children were exposed, crops were pollinated or soil or water was contaminated.

CDA must have been disappointed because they've emphasized that biopharming will be an economic boon for Colorado agriculture. Someone in Phillips County lost the chance to rent 30 acres to Meristem.

But opportunity knocks again. Iowa State University researcher Dr. Kan Wang¹ wants to plant corn that makes an experimental vaccine

for pig diarrhea near Sterling.

Dr. Wang admits this won't make money for Colorado farmers, because the work will be done by Iowans. Dr. Wang will pay them to haul their planter, disc and harvester 400 miles. When I asked why ISU is taking such pains to come here, she said she couldn't find any place in Iowa that is the required mile from food corn.

Representatives of the Sierra Club, Colorado Organic Producers Association, Colorado Genetic Engineering Network, Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union and Western Colorado Congress met with Colorado Agriculture Commissioner Don Ament April 16th to express our concerns.

We pointed out a Union of Concerned Scientists report² detailing contamination of seed with genes from GE crops. The commissioner was unimpressed. He said pharmacrops will be so carefully

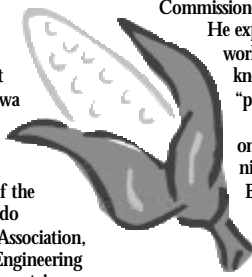
watched, nothing can go wrong.

We showed him the recent National Academy of Sciences publication³ which describes in detail why GE plants cannot be contained, and explicitly recommends that pharmacrops not be grown outdoors. Commissioner Ament dismissed it.

He explained that he has worked with the NAS and knows them to be a just a "political organization."

We noted that even one of CDA's own technical advisors, Dr. Pat Byrne, wrote an editorial⁴ echoing the NAS recommendation. We were assured that this was inconsequential.

Finally, we pointed out that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which must approve biopharm applications before they are given to CDA, is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement on their program regulating GE plants⁵, and in it they ask if biopharming should be conducted in food crops. We suggested it would be wise to see if USDA will continue to approve



Book Review

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

by Mary Taylor Young

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 "clean feel of grass and sky, the intangible wonder of space and horizon" on the plains rather than taking the well-trod route west to the mountains.

Young writes with her eyes wide open. Many of the places that fall under her keen, naturalist's gaze are familiar settings like Cherry Creek, Parker, and the rapidly disappearing areas in between that are over-

looked by most but are explored by Young as pockets of prairie harboring native plants and wildlife.

Her observations of the shifting colors of prairie grass or the mystical flight of a hawk encourage readers to shed the blinders of daily life to appreciate the remnants of shortgrass prairie that persevere in a Front Range increasingly choked by asphalt and thirsty lawns.

"The prairie is not a land to offer up its secrets easily," Young writes, but she seeks to be on intimate terms with this land—to experience its past, to absorb its hardscrabble beauty, and to understand its ruthless cycles of drought. She creates a

"womb of the earth" when building a "soddie" at the Prairie Conservation Center, she savors the prairie's flavors by making native chokecherry wine, and she peeks into the prairie of the past at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Young reveals the prairie's secrets to her readers by knowledgeably blending its natural and human history. Depending on their interests, readers will find some of the essays more engaging than others—they vary from Dust Bowl tales to searching for Cherry Creek's headwaters—yet taken all together they provide an eye-opening journey through the region that so many of us now call home.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
JULY 13!

Watch THIRST on PBS and invite your friends and neighbors

THIRST, a compelling documentary, will be shown on PBS "Point of View" July 13th. Thirst tells the story of communities stretching from Stockton, CA to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to Rajasthan, India which are resisting 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 Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, Thirst features Sierra Club member Dale Stocking speaking out and walking the talk in Stockton. It also shows

activists from around the globe confronting the corporate water privatizers in Kyoto, Japan at the Third World Water Forum.

Don't sit home alone! Invite your friends and neighbors over for a house party to view Thirst with you. Contact Sierra Club's Water Privatization Task Force at 202-244-0561 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 on line and learn more about Sierra Club's work on water privatization, go to www.sierraclub.org/cac/water

L · I · F · E · S · T · Y · L · E · S



Recyclers' Corner

Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt at 720-865-6805.

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! GrassCycling is easy to do, you 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.
- Enrich the soil. Short clippings decay rapidly, yet slowly release valuable nutrients to the soil.
- Save time. Say goodbye to raking 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; however, mulching blades that chop grass into smaller pieces are available for your gas or electric mower at local hardware stores for about \$20.
- Mow frequently. Lawns are healthiest when mowed to a 2½ to 3 inch length. To benefit most from GrassCycling, mow often enough that no more than one-third of the grass blade is removed.
- Ask your lawn service. If you use a landscaping 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 www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles 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 Reclamation District 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 total water and fertilizer bills.

Sign up for a FREE, hands-on, 2-hour backyard composting class at the Denver Backyard Composting Demonstration Site



and learn to make your own compost from kitchen scraps and yard trimmings. It's good for your yard and garden, good for the environment, easy to do and FUN! One class will teach you all you need to know to make terrific compost at home in just a few weeks. Call 720-865-6810 to register.

Compost Class Schedule

July	
Saturday 10	9-11 a.m.
Sunday 25	2-4 p.m.
August	
Saturday 14	9-11 a.m.
Saturday 28	9-11 a.m.
September	
Sunday 12	2-4 p.m.
Saturday 25	9-11 a.m.
October	
Saturday 9	9-11 a.m. (ww)*
Saturday 16	9-11 a.m.

*Worm Workshops teach vermicomposting

(composting with worms), which is a great way for apartment dwellers, office workers and schoolchildren to get involved in composting. Come and bring the kids!

All classes will be held at the Denver Backyard Composting Demonstration Site in the Gove Community Garden at 13th Ave. and Colorado Blvd.

For more information visit our web site at www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles or call 720-865-6810.



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 recyclables 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 calendar and information on what is collected so that you may begin recycling at home again.

Denver Recycles currently collects aluminum (cans, clean pie plates and clean foil), steel cans (food cans and empty aerosols), 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 hands-on environmental protection, it creates jobs, conserves natural resources, reduces pollution, saves landfill space and helps make 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 presented Sierra Club members Jean Smith of Florissant and John Stansfield of Colorado Springs with Environmental Hero awards.

Smith was selected in part for her role as a founding member of the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project and Upper Arkansas South Platte Project. Stansfield was recognized for being a key player in the Colorado Wilderness Steering Committee in the 1970s and 1980s, helping 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 Areas.

The Wilderness Society regularly recognizes as Environmental Heroes individuals who are making a difference around 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 environment and Colorado's wild places," said Suzanne Jones, Four Corners regional director for The Wilderness Society. "Through their vision and leadership, they are shaping 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 volunteer inventories of more than 100 roadless areas on the Pike and San Isabel National Forest and BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area. That research formed the basis of Wild Connections, a citizens' management alternative for the upcoming forest plan revision. One of Smith's first wilderness projects was hand-drawing maps and editing the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for BLM Lands. Currently, she is the inventory coordinator and fundraiser for the Upper Arkansas South Platte Project. Smith spent 20 years with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, an international human development group, before retiring.

"Working with volunteers to map roadless areas in the headwaters of the Arkansas and South Platte Rivers has given me a deep appreciation for the bounty and diversity of nature," said Smith. "I want to see these areas included in a wildlands network as core reserves and wildlife linkages to protect their beauty and biodiversity for hundreds of years."

For more than 25 years, John Stansfield has been a wilderness advocate and volunteer citizen organizer in the Colorado Springs area. He led his local Sierra Club group's negotiations and legal pressure to stop and require repair of watershed erosion on Pike's Peak. Recently, he founded the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition to inventory and secure wilderness protection for national forest roadless areas and potential BLM wilderness areas in the region. Stansfield is a pro-

fessional storyteller and is completing a biography of Rocky Mountain National Park pioneer Enos Mills, scheduled for publication in 2004.

"Preserving wildlands, like the Wild Ten proposed wilderness areas in central Colorado, is a long-term investment benefiting natural diversity and the human spirit, as well as the regional economy," Stansfield said. "Those of us working at the local level for wilderness greatly appreciate the expertise and encouragement offered by The Wilderness Society."

Founded in 1935, The Wilderness Society works to protect America's wilderness and to develop a nationwide network of wild lands through public education, scientific analysis, and advocacy. The organization has a quarter million members and supporters.

To receive Wilderness Society news releases and tip sheets online, send an email message to: newsroom@twso.org. Please type "Get News Online" in the subject line and include your name and news affiliation.

WHO

would you consider to be a local environmental hero in Colorado?



Please tell the Sierra Club about that extraordinary person.

Today.

Contact

janna.six@rmc.sierraclub.org
or call 970-493-5034



Book Review

The New Transit Town

by Hank Dittmar & Gloria Ohland

By Adriana Raudzens
RMC Transportation Coordinator

Transportation has always driven America's development patterns. We've moved from streetcar cities to auto-dominated suburbs. But today we're seeing the emergence of a new trend: the transit town. Whether in cities seeking to revitalize their urban core, or in suburbs looking to mature into more compact town centers, transit is playing a critical role in setting the stage for higher-density, pedestrian-friendly design.

The New Transit Town (Island Press 2004), edited by Hank Dittmar and Gloria Ohland, is a valuable resource for those working to bring about this type of transit-oriented development (TOD). From financing TODs to working through the challenges of traditional zoning and parking regulations, The New Transit Town gives a detailed overview of how to create successful TODs in a predominantly auto-orient-

ed, suburbanized country. Though clearly geared towards a professional audience, the book nevertheless holds more diverse appeal in its story-like review of existing TOD projects.

Rather than place the principal of TOD on a pedestal, The New Transit Town thoroughly analyzes the successes and failures of a variety of geographically and circumstantially diverse projects. How was San Diego's Barrio Logan able to preserve the Latino characteristics of the neighborhood while creating an efficient transportation hub? What design features brought fame to Dallas' Mockingbird Station? How did excess parking jeopardize Atlanta's Lindbergh City Center?

But this is no textbook. The story of TODs around the U.S. is told in a lively and anecdotal fashion.

With the Denver metro area on the brink of expanding its own transit system and creating opportunities for dozens of TODs, lessons learned from The New Transit Town are both practical and entertaining.



Book Review

The Zen of Gardening in the High and Arid West

by David Wann

by Mary Romano
Co-Chair, RMC Lifestyles
Education Committee

Earlier this spring I ventured into the garden for the harvest and planting of the second-half of my Jerusalem Artichoke plot (I do the other half in the fall). Finding amusement, after a few spades-full of the uniquely-shaped, odd tubers, I invited my 9 year old neighbor, Zoe, to join me. I thought she'd enjoy helping me harvest these strange veggies.

It became a teaching moment as I dug and she deposited the yield into a bucket. She remarked how black the soil was, so we talked about the life present within healthy soil. We even witnessed the disruption of so many earthworms and millipedes, scrambling to find a sheltered spot; and then we imagined how in the world the microbes and fungi transfer the minerals to the roots. I can't do that! Then we finished with a "dressing of the ancestors" of these sunflower relatives, which made their way through my year-long compost pile (I do the slow-method) to become "food" for the next generation.

If I want more inspirational moments and reflections such as these (when I'm more comfortably resting on the porch) I simply turn to an inspiring gem of a gardening book, *The Zen of Gardening* by Dave Wann.

Co-author of *Affluenza: the All-Consuming Epidemic* and the new book *Superbia*, about sustainable communities (even suburban ones), Wann lives in Harmony Village in Golden, a co-housing community. He shares his experiences in our high-dry Colorado Piedmont, yet he has written a guide for gardeners everywhere.

The gardening tips are delivered in such a delightful and good-humored way, the reader (green-thumb or not) discovers the joys and abundance to be had, along with the trials and climatic challenges of a region visited by hail and drought.

Throw in a little Zen-like humor, and a good dose of other spiritual insights, and this book will have you back out in the garden, savoring the lessons to be learned from listening to the Earth and working cooperatively with the life-forms that help us grow our food. We can learn from the "book of the Earth" and Dave Wann provides a great guide for doing just that.

Mary Romano is Editor of the Earth Literacy Companion, an online newsletter (<http://www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org/EarthLiteracyCompanion>).

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

When I asked master gardener Lana Porter what she likes 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 between rows, I'm not thinking anything at all—a radical switch from my previous life as an overworked bureaucrat."

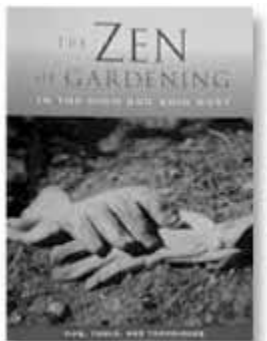
She came to her senses eight or ten years ago, choosing a pathway to mental clarity in her gardens. "People tell me I should take care of my crops more efficiently—with irrigation systems on timers, designer fertilizers and pesticides—so I could spend less time out here. But that way of growing disconnects 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 exercise in being connected to the rhythms and vibrations of daily life, some of the expert growers I know do indeed resemble Zen masters. They've learned that gardening can calm the storms of mental chaos by reconnecting mind with nature. These masters of gardening approach their work with a full palette of senses and a mind that stays on track. They garden in the present as well as in the future, knowing that the garden itself is the ultimate product, and that it will take years of focus 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 gardeners of the high, arid west from eastern gardeners. Known in geography jargon as the 100th meridian, it cuts the layer cake of Kansas and Nebraska in half, roughly separating the primordial short grass prairie—where rainfall is typically a distant memory—from the tall grass prairie, where gardens are essentially automatic.

East of The Line, farmers grow corn, 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 topographical maps, east is green and the arid west is brown. From an airplane in mid-summer, it's the same two-toned story, unless you happen to fly over a brief blush of green at the foot of the Rockies right after a three-day, flood-thirsty monsoon. So we're talking biology and meteorology here, not just hearsay. Scientific fact, not just precipitation envy.

We gardeners of the high plains and mountains are meteorologically and topographically challenged, that's the long and short of it. "The wildest weather on the planet," western landscape expert Jim Knopf calls the front (easternmost) range of



Colorado. "Arctic fronts collide 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 organic content of native soil, less than half a percent. They concluded it was futile to try growing anything in this box, shaking their heads sympathetically. (Eventually, of course, they inscribed "no grow" boxes over most of the Sunbelt, mountain and high plains landscape.)

In 1805, Lewis and Clark reported to Jefferson and colleagues back east that it took undaunted courage to even set foot west of The Line.

Another easterner with a long historical shadow, Civil War hero and explorer John Wesley Powell, went so far as to pronounce the west largely unfit for human habitation.

Fortunately, we've proven him wrong, haven't we? Here we stand, shell-shocked grins on our faces, dinged-up shovels 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 rock shred the lettuce a few hours before a dinner party, our first inclination may be to throw childish tantrums and vow never to garden again, but instead we lace up our boots and get out the seeds.

—David Wann

Ask the RECYCLE LADY



LESLIE MARTEL BAER, MA—Mountain Muse Communications

Dear Recycle Lady,
We live in an apartment complex in west Denver which does not recycle. We take most items to the pickup in Golden, but they do not accept cardboard or plastic grocery bags. Any suggestions?
Thanks,
Ralph Wells

Dear Ralph,
Most Albertson's stores in the metro area accept #2 and #4 plastic bags (make certain they are marked); they work with a local manufacturer who makes composite lumber from wood waste and the plastic bags. Often, the Albertsons stores will have benches near their bag bins serving as a demo of the lumber product.

For cardboard, Tri-R recycling (www.trir.com or 303.399.6351);

they accept all cardboard and pasteboard at their North Denver location.

You can also look for additional drop sites in the Recycle Guide from Colorado Recycles (www.coloradorecycles.org or 303-695-6010); also, some stores that collect their own cardboard for recycling will allow favored customers to bring in small (e.g., residential) quantities to be shipped out with the stores.

If you know the manager or produce manager at your favorite grocery store, you may be able to get them to let you drop at their site.

Leslie Martel Baer, MA
Project Management
& Content Design
Mountain Muse Communications
Denver, CO U.S.A.

It is with a heavy heart and much gratitude that Peak & Prairie bids adieu to our Recycle Lady, Leslie Martel Baer. Leslie is stepping down from the position after providing a wealth of valuable guidance to our readers for quite some time.

Recognizing the value that "Ask the Recycle Lady" has provided to our readers, we hope to keep the tradition going. In fact, we are thinking of expanding the breadth of the column so as to address everyday questions of environmental concern in other areas: renewability, energy conservation, responsible purchasing, etc. For those of you who feel you have expertise in these or other environmental fields, and have the willingness to occasionally answer insightful questions from other readers, we would love to have you do so. If you're interested, please contact Jason Wells at 303-875-7466 or editor@rmc.sierraclub.org.



At the Sierra Club, we're committed to protecting America's environment and the progress we've made cleaning up the pollution and poisons in our air, water and land. But that progress is in peril. The Bush Administration is allowing corporations to rewrite and weaken the laws that protect our health and safety and the land we love. Thirty years of progress have taught us there is a better way. Work with us. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean air, water and wild lands. Please join. With your support, we can do better... together.

My Name _____
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Please charge my MasterCard Visa AMEX Exp. Date _____
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

F94Q (w/) 1



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

Peak & Prairie HELP

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THANKS!

For information on PLACING AN AD contact

Matt Anderson
advertising-manager@rmc.sierraclub.org
720-898-1136



ADVERTISING MANAGER for the PEAK & PRAIRIE The Rocky Mountain Chapter is looking for a new Advertising Manager to sell and manage advertising space in the Peak & Prairie. The position pays on commission and offers an opportunity to work with great people in the environmental community.

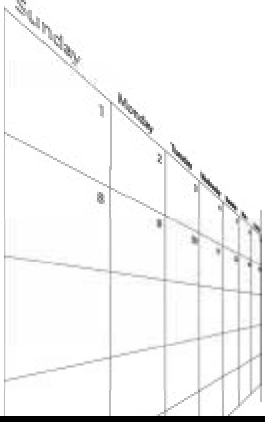
Some outside sales experience is preferred but not mandatory. Recommended time commitment:

Two hours / week

Responsibilities:

Maintain current contracts, cultivate new business, and report ad sales to Chapter accountant. This is an independent contractor position.

Please contact Matthew Anderson at the Chapter office to express interest. Sierra Club - Rocky Mountain Chapter
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 4C
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 720-898-1136
Fax: 303-861-2436
email: advertising-manager@rmc.sierraclub.org



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

for
Oct./Nov./Dec.
2004 Issue

Monday,
August 23, 2004

To list your event, email
calendar-editor
@rmc.sierraclub.org

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 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 <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.

C A L E N D A R

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.

Other outings and special events for the chapters and local groups can be located on the RMC website at www.rmc.sierraclub.org in the calendar toolbar or the outings toolbar. Please check for current listings. Don't have a computer? Do not fear - the office can let you know the latest if you give them a ring at 303-861-8819.

Outings

July 2-4, Friday-Sunday

Grizzly Peak Backpack. Gay & Lesbian Sierrans host this annual 4th of July backpack to the timberline snow fields at the base of Grizzly Mountain, located between Torreys Peak and the high alpine wildflower meadows of Baker Mountain above Loveland Pass. Hike the Continental Divide Trail, climb 13,427-foot Grizzly Peak (a class 4 free climb), hike up the backside of 14,267 foot Torreys Peak, or hike down to Chihuahu Lake. These are high-altitude strenuous level hikes.

If you're not into strenuous adventures, perhaps just escaping the heat of Denver and relaxing by Grizzly Creek, enjoying the wildflower meadows and valley view or a good book is what you want. Friday, July 2nd, we'll 4-wheel up Grizzly Gulch Road, backpacking the last 2.5 miles to our remote campsite. Saturday, July 3rd, we'll explore the peaks and trails. July 4th we'll do a lazy day of hiking, returning to Denver in time for your favorite fireworks display. For further information or to sign up for this great escape, contact Jamie at jabender@mindspring.com.

July 3, Saturday

Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Help the Sierra Club staff a unique environmental/art booth! email John.rosapepe@sierraclub.org

July 9, Friday

The PPG Sierra Singles/COS is having a Happy Hour and Dinner at the Elephant Bar and Restaurant, 7585 N. Academy Ave., Colorado Springs, 5:30 p.m. Join the gang and other survivors for a fun happy hour and dinner at one of Colorado Springs' great new premier restaurants. Reduced Happy Hour drink prices and good food at moderate rates. No RSVP required. David Harmer, 597-3996.

July 10, Saturday

From Colorado Springs, the PPG Sierra Singles will sponsor a hike up Mt. Sherman (14,036' high, Moderate C) and Mt. Sheridan (13,748' high, Moderate Plus pace). The altitude gain/loss will be about 6,500 feet, and

the distance to be covered will be about 7 miles RT for both peaks. Proper high-altitude clothing, boots, sunscreen, and food and water will be required. 14'er experience is required unless cleared by the leader. Call Christie Lee, 635-2336, no later than one week before trip date. Limit of 10.

July 11, Sunday

Deluge Lake Hike. Join the Gay & Lesbian Sierrans for a strenuous day hike deep inside the Gore Range and Eagle's Nest Wilderness. We will be hiking to Deluge Lake, a beautiful high mountain lake nestled against the craggy peaks of the Gore Range. This area is definitely one of the most spectacular mountain areas in Colorado, and you'll understand why those folks in Vail are so smug about where they live after attending this hike. You may camp with us at the Gore Creek campground in East Vail Saturday night (recommended), or drive up from the Front Range early Sunday morning. Fit hikers only, please. 8 miles roundtrip, 3,100' elevation gain. Please plan to have the full day open for this hike.

What to bring: Sturdy hiking boots, rain gear, 2 liters water, energy snacks, lunch, non-cotton hiking wear, sunblock, camera. Please contact Jacob for more information or to reserve your spot: 970-988-5295. Limit of 10 participants.

July 11, Sunday

Blue Lake via Mitchell Lake. Short, moderate difficulty trail with fine scenery, abundant wildflowers, and a series of stunning alpine lakes. Learn to identify 5 alpine flowers. Contact Dave Hawley, (303) 443-2332.

July 13, Tuesday

Mt. Evans Wilderness. Join Lin Hark for a moderate to strenuous hike from Evergreen's Upper Bear Creek access to Mt. Evans Wilderness area. Beginning at the Camp Rock Trailhead in the Mt. Evans Wildlife Management Area this out-and-back hike climbs around 1,300' for 3 miles through an old burn area. We will observe the new growth and how the forest rejuvenates itself. 6 miles total at a moderate pace. Bring sturdy boots, snacks, lunch, layers of appropriate clothing, hiking poles and the ten essentials. Contact Lin Hark for start time, meeting location, and other details: 303-507-3502 or email lin.hark@rmc.sierraclub.org. 12 hiker limit.

July 18, Sunday

The PPG Sierra Singles/COS will sponsor a hike of Bear Creek Loop in Sesame Canyon, west of town, with great views in the foothills just above the town. Moderate pace and difficulty, 7-miles with about a 2,200' elevation gain. Pack a snack for the trail and we may stop for food and drinks afterwards; bring sunscreen. Carpool, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. RSVP required by Saturday evening. David Harmer, 597-3996.

Mountaineering Series IV - Mt. Sherman. Final hike in Mountaineering Series - a fourteenner! Mt. Sherman is

supposed to be the easiest fourteenner to climb, but we'll feel this ascent. Impressive views are the reward. 8.8 mile RT with 2,850' elevation gain. Participant limit 10. Contact Rebecca Dickson, (303) 499-7261.

July 18-25, Sunday-Sunday

Cirque of the Towers Backpack. This unprecedented three-quarter-circle in the Continental Divide is home to 15 of Wyoming's 12,000+ foot peaks. Once considered the climbing Mecca for U.S. climbers, these weathered and rugged class 5.8+ peaks still call to aspiring climbers, however backpackers and mountain photographers alike find the unique, rugged beauty equally appealing. The rugged Wind River peaks are second only to the Grand Tetons in age and sheer vertical beauty in the lower 48. Sunday, July 18th, we'll travel to Lander, Wyoming. Monday morning July 19th, we'll 4-wheel 17 miles to Shoshone Lake in the Popo Agie Wilderness. We'll then backpack up the Shoshone Trail to its junction with the North Fork Trail. From the junction, we'll backpack 11 miles west through the Popo Agie River Valley to Lonesome Lake at the base of Pingora Peak. This backpack is virtually flat with only a 998' elevation gain over the 11 miles. We'll establish a base camp and spend the next couple of days exploring Jack Ass Pass and the many peaks, meadows, and lakes of the Cirque of the Towers. Friday, July 23rd, we'll start our return backpack to Shoshone Lake and Lander. We'll return to Denver on Sunday, July 25th. For further information or to sign up for this adventure, contact Jamie at jabender@mindspring.com

July 21-25, Wednesday-Sunday

Capitol Peak Trail Project. GLS returns to the Elk Range this year for our third annual Adopt-a-Peak trail work project. GLS adopted 14,130' Capitol Peak in 2002 and has been working under the supervision of the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative and the U.S. Forest Service to build and rehabilitate the summit approach trails in the vicinity of Capitol Lake. Come along on this unique work trip and experience the best of what the Colorado mountains have to offer. This project requires the following from participants: the ability to backpack up to 6 miles one way to and from base camp at 10,000'; high-altitude acclimatization (the work site is around 12,000'); familiarity and experience with backpacking and camping in a wilderness setting for multiple days; a desire to learn about trail maintenance techniques and skills; a desire to spend five days in one of Colorado's most spectacular and remote wilderness areas. If you are interested, please contact Lisa for more information or to sign up: 303-726-9044 or lisa.lewis@rmc.sierraclub.org. Limited to 12 participants. Please sign up early to guarantee your spot. Please note: a liability waiver will be required. In addition, all participants will be required to attend a pre-trip safety and logistics meeting.

July 30-August 1,
Saturday-Sunday

VOC Trail & Habitat Restoration. Straddling the Colorado River, Pioneer Park and the adjacent hot springs were traditional summer camps for Ute Indians. The park's thick stands of cottonwood and wetlands provide habitat for elk, deer, mountain lion and black bear. Prior use of the park as an off-road vehicle "playground" resulted in significant damage to its wetlands and riverbanks. The town of Hot Sulphur Springs has asked for VOC's assistance in its restoration effort. In partnership with Headwaters Trail Alliance, VOC will construct a sustainable and environmentally sensitive trail, complete riverbank restoration, and erect a buck-and-rail fence to protect fragile wetlands. GLS will be providing a work crew to help with this effort. Come out and spend the weekend with us!

What to bring: Sturdy hiking boots, work gloves, rain gear, comfortable but sturdy work clothes, sunblock. Please call or email Lisa for more information or to sign up: 303-726-9044 or lisa.lewis@rmc.sierraclub.org.

August 6, Friday

The PPG Sierra Singles/COS is holding a Happy Hour at the Sunbird, 230 Point of Pines Dr. Colorado Springs. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meet the week's survivors either on the patio, weather permitting, or in the lounge. Reduced price drinks, free snack food, live entertainment, and great views of the city. No RSVP required. Dave Harmer, 597-3996.

August 7, Saturday

Mount Toll Climb. A Gay & Lesbian Sierrans event. Beginning at the Brainard Lake trailheads in the Indian Peaks Wilderness above Ward, we'll hike a popular 2.5 mile trail climbing 1,000' to Blue Lake at 11,352', then leave the trail to climb a very steep, rocky slope to the 12,550' divide between Mt. Toll and Pawnee Peak, then a steep climb through a boulder field to the summit at 12,979', for beautiful views of the Indian Peaks, Lone Eagle Peak, Pawnee Lake and the back range. The return will loop around the west and north end of Blue Lake, probably crossing substantial snow fields. To avoid mid-day thunderstorms, a 6:30 a.m. departure from Denver, hoping for a noon summit. A difficult hike - all participants should be in very good shape, and experienced with climbing off-trail at altitude. 8 miles round-trip, 3,000' elevation gain. Plan to have the full day open for this hike.

What to bring: Sturdy hiking shoes, daypack, coat, rain gear, gloves, hat, lunch, snacks, water, ice-axe (optional). Contact Tom at 303-832-3430 or email him at tarrison@usa.net to sign up. Trip limited to 8.

August 12, Thursday

Chicago Lakes Day Hike. Join Lin Hark for a moderate to strenuous hike from Echo Lake to the Chicago Lakes at the base of Mt. Evans. We may see some mountain goats while we break for

lunch at the lakes. This hike climbs around 1,000' through high country to above tree line. 7-8 miles total at a moderate pace. Bring sturdy boots, snacks, lunch, layers of appropriate clothing, hiking poles and the ten essentials. Contact Lin Hark for start time, meeting location, and other details: 303-507-3502 or email lin.hark@rmc.sierraclub.org. 12-hiker limit.

August 15, Sunday

Longs Peak Day Hike. Join the Gay & Lesbian Sierrans for a very strenuous day hike to the summit of Rocky Mountain National Park's only fourteener. We will be following the popular Keyhole Route, taking us through the Boulder Field, the Keyhole, the Ledges, the Trough, the Narrows, and Homestretch. Experienced and fit mountain hikers only, no exceptions. This hike requires an early start and steady pace in order to summit before afternoon thunderstorms roll in. 16 miles roundtrip, 4,800' elevation gain. Plan to have the full day open for this hike.

What to bring: Sturdy hiking boots, rain/wind gear, 2 liters water, energy snacks, lunch, non-cotton hiking wear, sunblock, camera, ibuprofen. Please call Jacob for more information or to sign up: 970-988-5295. Limit 12 participants.

August 18, Sunday

The PPG Sierra Singles/COS will sponsor a hike on the Catamount Trail. We'll carpool, then hike 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. A moderate to difficult hike, 3.6 miles RT with a 2,000' alt. gain and some nice views of the valley along the trail. We will also hike through the Garden of Eden and hunt for raspberries along the way. We may stop for lunch afterwards. RSVP to Dave Harmer (Colorado Springs) at 597-3996 by Saturday evening.

August 22, Sunday

National Mount Audubon Day Hike. A Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Event. Follow a well-traveled trail from Lake Mitchell to the summit of 13,233' Mt. Audubon, in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area west of Boulder, for an incredible 360° view of mountains, valleys, and plains. This 7-mile round-trip, 2,800' elevation gain hike is non-technical but requires stamina. Plan on an early start so we can be off the summit before noon to avoid the chance of lightning. Plan to have the full day open for this hike.

What to bring: You need to bring plenty of water, plenty of sunscreen, plenty of energy-producing food snack as well as your lunch. Also you will need to carry a variety of clothing layers, including rain gear. Please call Gary for more information or to sign up: 303-449-8182. Limit 12 participants.

September 11, Saturday

Mount Evans Wilderness Fall Foliage Hike. A Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Event. A moderate 8-9 mile round-trip day hike along the Abyss Lake Trail, with an elevation gain of approximately 1,200'. U.S. 285 to Grant then north up Guanelia Pass Road about 4 miles to the Abyss Lake Trail #602. Expect spectacular Fall colors on this stream-side hike. Plan to have the full day available for this trip.

What to bring: Day pack with snacks for the way up; lunch to enjoy at the beaver ponds; plenty of water; Sunscreen; appropriate layered clothing (no cotton) for a great gay day of fun in the sun in our ever-changing Colorado outdoors; camera; etc. Rose-colored glasses optional. Contact Dan @ 303-761-8738 for additional information and to sign up. Limit 12 participants.

September 11-12, Saturday (from 8 a.m.) and Sunday (to 5 p.m.)

The PPG, in Colorado Springs, will sponsor a Table Mountain overnight backpack/dayhike for its general membership. This survey trip will be conducted in conjunction with the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition to survey the Table Mountain area, one of CCWC's "Wild Ten" areas. This will be an interior survey to map routes and document Bureau of Land Management vegetation treatments. Participants will backpack to an overnight campsite, then join mapping teams to survey the area. GPS skills useful but not required. The trip will start from the roadhead at 8 a.m. and it is recommended that participants drive down to car-camp nearby Friday night. The hiking will be strenuous, RT distance will be 4 miles with a backpack, and 10 miles with day hikes. The altitude gain/loss will be 500'. Bring good hiking boots, clothing suitable to weather conditions, containers for at least 2 gallons of water. Participants will discuss meal-sharing at sign-up time; otherwise bring your own food and cooking gear. For details call Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045. Participants must register by Wednesday, Sept. 8. Participants limited to 10.

Events

June 26, Saturday 5-7 p.m.

Political Fundraiser. Join us at the home of Macon and Regina Cowles for a fundraiser to benefit the Indian Peaks Group Political Committee. Don't miss this fun social event with lots of great food and drink! 1680 Wilson Ct., Boulder. Contact KC Becker 720-406-8659, kdotted@yahoo.com.

June 28, Monday, 7 p.m.

Smokestacks, Impacts, and Talkbacks. An open dialogue about Bush administration policies, our air, and what we can do about it. George Reynolds Library, 3595 Table Mesa Dr., Boulder. Contact Steve Welter, 303-499-7261, or email steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org.

July 24, Saturday, 5-9 p.m.

IPG Summer Picnic. Bring your friends, family, and your own picnic dinner. We'll supply music, games and homemade ice cream. North Boulder Park. For information, contact Kay Bingham by email; kaybingham@msn.com.

September 22, Wednesday

What makes a wine organic? The Enos Mills Group presents an organic wine tasting event. Now is your opportunity to learn what makes a wine organic and sample some of the wines currently on the market. Please call or email Eddie Hackstaff for details - 303-584-9469 or eddie@hackstaff.com.

Chapter Meetings

Auction Committee General Meetings

Please call the office for dates and times. Help us plan for the 2004 5th Annual Auction at the Mile High Station! Contact Dan Disner at 303-861-8819 or email dan.disner@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Chapter Conservation Committee

Contact Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519 or write kirk.cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org for details about the location and time.

Energy Committee

The first Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m. at the Chapter office at 1536 Wynkoop St., suite 4C. Contact John Rosapepe at 303-861-8819 or email john.rosapepe@sierraclub.org or Greg Casini at greg.casini@sierraclub.org.

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)

Contact Lisa Lewis at 303-777-3664 for more details about dates and times. Also check out the GLS Web site for more information on hikes, meetings, and other fun events: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act/html.

Genetic Engineering Committee

The Genetic Engineering Committee is looking for a new chair. If you are interested please contact Suzanne Wuerthele at 303-333-2519 or wuerthel@central.com.

Inner City Outings

Tuesday, August 8th, at 6:30 at EMS, 870 S. Colorado Blvd, Glendale, CO 80246. Check RMC's website calendar for updates. Please contact Kathy Glatz by email at kathy.glatz@rmc.sierraclub.org for information.

Lifestyles Education Committee

Discover how personal choices affect the health of the planet. No formal meetings are scheduled. Contact Jolynn Jarboe 303-753-0470 or jolynn11@juno.com for further information.

Outings Committee

Interested in planning outings for your group or for the chapter? Please contact Jacob Morgan at Jacob.morgan@rmc.sierraclub.org or check out the outings Web site for more meeting details at www.rmc.sierraclub.org.

Pesticides Committee

Contact Angela Medbery for meeting dates and times at 303-433-2608. She'd love to have you there!

Photo Interest Group

Join the new RMC Photo Interest Group. Meetings are taking place at the Uptown Gallery and Studio at 3519 Brighton Blvd. in Denver. View nature slide shows! Go on interesting hikes! Fun without limit! Please give Mark Itkonen at 303-296-9300 for more information about dates and times.

Transportation Meeting

First Monday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the RMC Sierra Club Office, 1536 Wynkoop St. 4C, in downtown Denver. Contact Bert Melcher if you have any questions, a.melcher@comcast.net or call the Chapter Office at 303-861-8819.

Sierra Club Singles

We're reinvigorated and hope to plan some events for the summer. If you have an interest in getting involved - organizing singles activities or just attending and having a good time - contact Dan Disner at the Chapter office. 303-861-8819 or dan.disner@rmc.sierraclub.org

Group Meetings

Blue River Group (Summit, Grand & Eagle Counties)

The first Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Mount Royal Room, Summit County Commons, Frisco. For more information contact Karn Stiegelmeier 970-468-9013 or bluerivergroup@aol.com

Enos Mills Group (Denver County)

Please contact Diane Uren at 303-504-9657 for more information on EMG Meetings.

High Plains Group (Aurora, Brighton, Parker, and other Eastern Plains area)

This group is in reorganization, but please call up the Chapter Office to find out more details, 303-861-8819 or dan.disner@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Indian Peaks Group (Boulder County)

General meeting: Monday August 23. Contact Steve Welter for details; email steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org, 303-499-7261.

Bugle Staff Meeting: Interested in contributing to the next issue of the Bugle? Contact Rebecca Dickson for details regarding our next staff meeting, 303-499-7261, or email rebecca.dickson@rmc.sierraclub.org

Conservation Committee: First Wednesday each month. Environmental Center of the Rockies, 2260 Baseline Rd., Boulder. Contact Kirk Cunningham for time and agenda, email kmcunnin@juno.com or call 303-939-8519.

Energy Committee: Third Monday each month. Contact Leslie Glustrom for location, agenda, and details, 303-245-8637, or email lglustrom@qwest.net (email preferred).

Executive Committee: Fourth Monday every other month. Contact Steve Welter for location, time, and meeting agenda, email steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org, 303-499-7261.

General membership meeting: Fourth Monday every other month. Contact Steve Welter for location, time, and meeting agenda, steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org, 303-499-7261.

Outings Committee: Want to help lead or organize outings? Join the outings committee. Contact Dave Hawley to volunteer or for meeting details, 303-443-2332, or email dave_hawley@comcast.net.

Political Committee: If not now, when? Contact KC Becker for information, 720-406-8659, or email kdotted@yahoo.com.

Sprawl & Transportation Committee: Second Tuesday each month. Contact Julie Caron for location, time, and agenda for next meeting, 303-499-5082, julie.caron@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Mount Evans Group (Evergreen, Conifer Area)

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Evergreen Rec. Center. Email Betsy Kelson for more information at betsy.kelson@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Pikes Peak Group (El Paso and Teller Counties)

Book Club and Discussion Group: 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Poor Richard's Restaurant, 324 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs. Contact Dave Bryan for more details at 719-559-2790 or email dlbsierra@sun-west.net.

General meetings: 2nd Tuesday evening at the Beidleman Environmental Center. For more information on location and time, please contact Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019.

Executive Committee meetings: 3rd Thursdays at the Beidleman Environmental Center. For more information on location and time, please contact Kirby Hughes at 719-685-3019.

Poudre Canyon Group (Larimer and Weld Counties)

General meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at Home State Bank, 303 E. Mountain Ave. in Ft. Collins. For more information, contact Neal Marsh at 970-225-1861 or email nandv@aol.com.

Rachel Carson Group (Eastern Jefferson County)

General meeting: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1 - Rocky Mountain Chapter Director Susan LeFever will present Making a Difference in November, a talk on the 2004 election campaigns.

Executive Committee meetings: 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays, July 7 and August 4. City of Arvada Admin. Bldg., 8101 W. Ralston Rd. (8 blocks West of Wadsworth). Enter through doors marked POLICE and take immediate left across from reception desk. For more information please contact Judy Johnson at 303-969-2109 or judithjohnson@netzero.net. You will find the latest news, information and plans for this summer's events at www.rmc.sierraclub.org/rcg

Sangre de Cristo Group (Arkansas River and San Luis Valley)

General meetings: 3rd Thursdays of the month. Please contact Ross Vincent for more details about location and times: ross.vincent@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Executive Committee Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at Main Library/Thurston Leadership Room, 100 E. Abriendo Avenue, Pueblo. For more details about SdCG activities, please check the group web page at www.rmc.sierraclub.org/sdcg/ or contact the group Chair at sdcg-chair@rmc.sierraclub.org

South Platte Group

ExCom meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Consult SPG Web page for locations.

Trappers Lake Group (Routt, Moffat, Jackson, and Rio Blanco)

General meeting: The third Tuesday of each month, at noon, at Centennial Hall. Contact Rich Levy at rich.levy@rmc.sierraclub.org for more information.

Uncompahgre Group (Mesa, Delta, and Gunnison Counties)

For general meeting information, contact Shelly at 970-243-5138.

Weminuche Group (Durango and surrounding areas)

3rd Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. at Storyville in Durango. Questions? Contact John Z. at zwierzycki@frontier.net or 970-375-9584.

Outside Functions

Join the Colorado Environmental Coalition and the Colorado Mountain Club for a restoration weekend in one of Colorado's Citizens Wilderness Proposal Areas! Explore a new area while helping to restore its natural qualities.

Participants should bring work clothes, sack lunches, and car-camping gear. We will provide tools and hot breakfasts and dinners for hungry workers! There is a thirty-five dollar donation for food. You can sign up on our Web site at www.ourcolorado.org, or call Corrie Knapp at 303-534-7066 x205. Make sure to reserve your space on one of our popular weekends!

September 17-18, Friday-Saturday

Oil Spring Mountain illegal ATV route restoration. Northwest Region - 25 miles south of Rangley. This area has thus far retained its distinction as an oasis in a sea of development, making it an exceptionally important refuge for a diversity of wildlife.

Vegetation types ranging from conifer and aspen forests on the northern slopes to mahogany, oak brush, pinion, and juniper on the southern slopes accentuate this variety.

Numerous cultural point of interests can be discovered while in the area, from petroglyphs carved into the sandstone cliffs to ancient artifacts dating back 7,000 years.

October 1-3, Friday-Sunday

Dominguez Canyons Project TBA Midwest Region - 20 miles southeast of Grand Junction. Covering a breadth of ecosystems, this locale is noteworthy for its distinctions in Colorado as the largest BLM roadless area and as host to one of the greatest concentrations of rare and endangered species.

Pinon-juniper woodlands along the Gunnison River characterize the lower elevations, Douglas fir and ponderosa pine forests dominate the slick rock canyon slopes, and aspen and spruce-fir forests grace the terrain of the upper elevations.

MT. EVANS GROUP WEEKDAY FRONT RANGE HIKE SERIES

Lin Hark has been enjoying forming a group of weekday hikers in the Denver Metro area and is trying to attract hikers from all metro area Sierra Club groups as well as non-Sierra Club members. Lin believes the Outings Program is an important part of attracting supporters of conserving our beautiful state. There will be a weekday hike once per month until December of this year when Lin will assess the future of this weekday hiking series and possibly expand it to twice monthly or weekly. Lin shares the position of MEG Outings Chair with Julika Bond.

Upcoming hikes include: July 13th, Bergan Peak day hike; August 12th, Centennial Cone day hike; September 14th, Kenosha Pass/Colorado Trail day hike, October 14th Lair o' the Bear day hike; November 9th, White Ranch day hike; December 9th, Apex day hike.



True Cost of Food Campaign

Agriculture is the largest source of water pollution in the U.S. Protect the environment when making food choices. Eat local, organic and low on the food chain.

To learn more: http://www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/ or contact Sonya Guram sonya.guram@rmc.sierraclub.org

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



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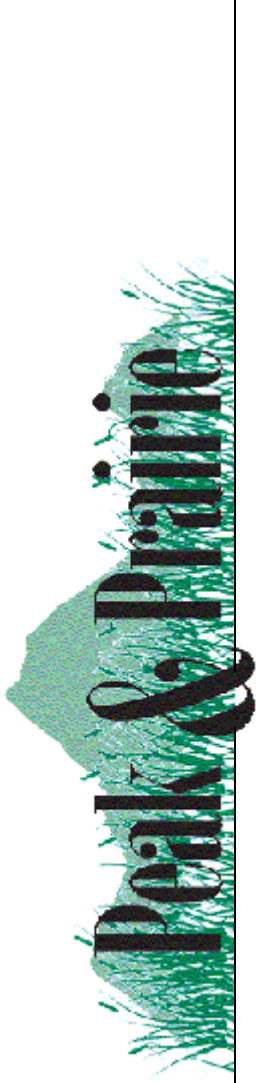
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A call to action to build on the proven success of intelligent and responsible transportation alternatives.



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.



Roeley Mountain Chapter
1586 Wynkoop Street, 4C
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