

## NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB PRESIDENT JENNIFER FERENSTEIN TO HOST CHAPTER AUCTION IN OCTOBER



Help fund The Rocky Mountain Chapter's efforts to protect Colorado's environment while getting great stuff for bargain prices! Just come down to Denver's historic Brown Palace Hotel on Saturday evening, October 19 when the Rocky Mountain Chapter hosts our 3rd Annual "Wild Places, Open Spaces" Auction!

Sierra Club President Jennifer Ferenstein will be our featured guest, discussing environmental issues important to our Rocky Mountain region. The evening will include a cocktail reception with silent auction followed by a sumptuous dinner and live auction—all for just \$60 per person! For an additional donation, guests can attend a private reception with President Ferenstein.

A wide variety of items and services will be auctioned, including getaway trips in Colorado and beyond, dining gift certificates, fine art, gift baskets, outdoor equipment, celebrity items and much more. Get your holiday shopping done all in one evening!

How to help the Sierra Club—and have fun while doing it:

- Put on your fancier duds and attend the Auction! For tickets, call Libby or Susan at the Chapter Office today at 303-861-8819
- Sell Auction tickets to your friends, family and co-workers. You can even reserve an entire table for eight for your group! And, when you sell five tickets, you get one free! Call the Chapter Office for details. ■



### Yes! Include me in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chapter Auction!

- I will purchase \_\_\_ auction and dinner reservations at \$60 each.  
 I (we) need \_\_\_ vegetarian entrees.
- I will purchase \_\_\_ reservations to the Ferenstein Reception at \$40 each.
- I regret that I (we) cannot attend. Please accept the attached donation to protect wild places and preserve open spaces.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my Visa or MasterCard \$\_\_\_\_\_

CC # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form no later than Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to:

Sierra Club Auction,  
1410 Grant Street B303  
Denver, CO 80203

## SUMMER FIRES IGNITE BAD FOREST PROPOSALS

by Steve Smith, Associate Southwest Regional Representative

This summer, a century of wildfire suppression and the deepest Colorado drought since 1851 set the stage for a very large number of forest fires, some large in size, all severe in their intensity. These fires threatened the lives of residents and fire-fighters.

As the fires burned, a few elected officials and editors in the west started a chant of blame, saying that the forests need to be logged more and blaming environmentalists for stopping that logging.

The scapegoating of forest protection groups, often citing Sierra Club specifically, reached its zenith when President Bush announced in early August his plan for reviving commercial logging on federal public lands, draping it in the thin garment of reducing fire danger.

In fact, the President's plan would increase the risk and intensity of fire in some parts of the national forests while failing to reduce dangerous fuel loads where doing so is most important.

The Sierra Club has long agreed that the national forests are overloaded with crowded, small, even-aged trees and with accumulated underbrush, fuels that increase the heat of even natural fires and provide "fuel ladders" that increase the potential for fast moving crown fires. That is why, in mid-August, the club published its recommendations for properly reducing wildfire fuels build-up.

The Sierra Club plan essentially says that the Forest Service should concentrate all fuels reduction work (thinning, underbrush clearing, prescribed burning) close to where people live. To accomplish that, we recommend an increase in federal funding

of \$2 billion per year for the next five years.

Meanwhile, the President's plan, now embraced by Colorado Congressman Scott McInnis and others in Congress, would throw open all national forests to dramatic increase in commercial logging. Rather than concentrating on the "red zone" near homes and communities, the Bush-McInnis plan would ineffectually spread thinning efforts throughout the forest and encourage the cutting of large trees to make the projects economically attractive to timber companies.

This approach is wrong because it would take out large, water conserving trees (actually increasing fire danger) and would fail to protect the lives and homes of people because it would spread resources too thin.

Worst of all, the Bush-McInnis proposals include elimination of citizen opportunities to participate in decisions about their national forests. It would reduce or curtail comment periods and would weaken the National Environmental Policy Act.

Their plan threatens the forests, communities, and democracy. Our plan saves lives.

The Pacific Northwest research station of the U.S. Forest Service has just published an important analysis of what needs to be done—and not done—to reduce fire danger.

The report states that "In all types of thinnings if the slash is not treated, then the risk of increased crown fire is increased." It also says that, "Traditional



— by Mark Itkonen, Photographer  
This year's wildfires have destroyed large areas of drought-impacted forest and grasslands at Colorado's Dinosaur National Monument.

See "Fire Legislation" on page 4

## IMPORTANT VICTORIES AT STATE LEGISLATURE

### DAMS BILL STOPPED, SENSIBLE FIRES AND DROUGHT RESPONSE SUPPORTED

by Steve Smith, Associate Southwest Regional Representative

The Colorado General Assembly met in special session July 8 through 11, responding to the Governor's call for revising the state's death penalty law and for responding to this year drought and wildfires. The opening array of bills introduced was dangerous, but environmental wisdom generally prevailed.

The most attention-getting bills of the session would have authorized a state-wide ballot question authorizing \$10 billion in new state debt (bonds) to build new dams. Introduced by Representative Diane Hoppe (R-Sterling) and Senator Jim Dyer (R-Centennial), the legislation would have provided essentially no attention, let alone funding, to sensible water conservation, sharing, or flexible distribution. Instead, it assumed that building more dams would somehow make it rain more.

Sierra Club joined with other conservation lobby groups to point out the fallacies in the dams bill, reminding lawmakers that building more dams in a long term drought just means that Colorado would

have more partially or completely empty reservoirs, while destroying riparian habitat and postponing wise water planning that is needed now. The bills were defeated in committee.

Sierra Club also was successful in securing a resolution of support from the legislature for a bill introduced by Colorado Congressmen Hefley and Udall. That bill would direct the U.S. Forest Service to concentrate its work at reducing wildfire fuels in those areas where most lives are at stake, close to where people live.

The coalition of conservation lobbyists also helped secure a Senate resolution calling for more water conservation at state facilities and calling on homeowner associations to drop their covenants requiring bluegrass and other water consumptive landscaping.

The teamwork and fast response put together by Colorado environmentalists helped make sure that our forests and

See "State Victories" on page 7

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

It is time again to cast your ballot for members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter Executive Committee. All members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, which includes the entire state of Colorado, are eligible to vote. The Executive Committee consists of one delegate from each of our 13 local groups and 7 at-large delegates, elected by the membership for two-year terms. The Executive Committee is the Chapter's governing body. It determines environmental positions and budget priorities, oversees Chapter committees and local Groups and conducts the general business of the Chapter.

This year there are three openings on the Executive Committee and six candidates have been nominated by the Chapter Nominations Committee: Anne Cain, Kirpal Singh, Tony Ruckel, Roger Wendell, Dan Fosha, and Larry Skiffington; Bill Myers is running by petition.

Please cast your vote(s) on the enclosed ballot and follow the instructions carefully. You may vote for up to three candidates. Joint members may cast two votes, for three candidates each.

See "Ex-Com Statements" on page 6



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Greg Casini  
RMC Chair

## Chapter Flexes Its Political Muscle

Election season is upon us and the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Election Action Committee is in full swing. The mission of the Election Action Committee (EAC) is to elect more environmental candidates and to make the environment an important issue in campaigns this year.

Organizationally, the Chapter is creating the infrastructure to involve more volunteers in candidate campaigns and to develop a cadre of trained liaisons to our priority races from our local groups. Ultimately, by doing this we will show that through the strength of the Sierra Club membership in Colorado, we can have an impact on elections.

The EAC has targeted a dozen state-level races for involvement of activists and support of pro-environment candidates. The following criteria have been used in selecting targeted campaigns:

- Close races where we can make the difference on election day
- Races where we can have an impact by either winning or sowing the seeds for success in future campaigns
- Districts with large numbers of Sierra Club members
- Races in communities adjacent to a Sierra Club stronghold that need help

The EAC has recruited and trained volunteer "sparkplugs" to enter targeted campaigns to assist with campaign activities and to raise the level of awareness about the environment in the 2002 campaign. Sparkplugs serve as liaisons between their home groups and the EAC by recruiting volunteers from those groups to work on campaigns.

Sparkplugs have been trained in volunteer recruitment and management, organizing letter-writing campaigns, running phone banks, and walking precincts. Each sparkplug has been assigned to a pro-environment candidate's campaign, where they are coordinating and energizing our campaign work as a Sierra Club representative.

Our Sparkplugs have determined the type of support that is needed in their assigned campaigns and are organizing Sierra Club volunteers in their area to accomplish those tasks. I hope you will join us at some level to lend your time and talent to the environmental movement in this critical election season. In such a pivotal year, support for pro-environment candidates is essential!

### Help Pro-Environment candidates win in 2002

### Raise the level of the environment in the election

### Show the political power of Colorado's 20,000 Sierra Club members

To find out more, please contact Susan LeFever at 303.861.8819 or [slefever@vanion.com](mailto:slefever@vanion.com). ■

## Sierra Club Applauds Legislation to Restore Vital Clean Water Protections

On July 24, 2002, important legislation to protect wetlands and other waters was introduced by Senator Russ Feingold (WI) and Congressmen James Oberstar (MN) and John Dingell (MI). The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2002, S. 2780 and H.R. 5194, is in response to the 2001 U.S. Supreme Court ruling which dealt a serious blow to the protection of the nation's waters by narrowing federal authority to control water pollution. In a statement applauding the legislation, Sierra Club Environmental Quality Director Ed Hopkins noted, "this bill clarifies that Congress intends for Clean Water Act protection to extend to all of the nation's waters, including the so-called isolated wetlands, streams, ponds and other waterbodies that play such an integral role in our environment."

Isolated wetlands and other waters, including prairie potholes, playa lakes, bogs, fens, vernal pools, Carolina Bays and other systems provide floodwater storage, filtration of pollutants, recharge of groundwater and critical habitat for many species of birds, fish and wildlife.

The Supreme Court ruling in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) v. Army Corps of Engineers* overturned the federal government's long-held authority under the Clean Water Act to protect non-navigable, intrastate, isolated wetlands, streams and other waterbodies from pollution based on their use by migratory birds. The Court's 5-4 majority opinion went beyond the ruling by throwing into question whether federal Clean Water Act protections apply to any wetlands, streams and other waters that may be considered isolated. In the wake of confusion created by the Court's opinion, varying interpretations have been applied by the agencies and in the courts. In some areas of the country, the ruling was seen as setting aside federal protection of all waters that are not immediately adjacent to rivers and streams used for navigation.

The current situation is aggravated by the Bush Administration's failure, for over a year and a half, to issue a guidance interpreting the Court's ruling. So-called "isolat-

ed" waters provide critical ecological functions, and yet they are at risk of being considered beyond the reach of the Clean Water Act, if regulatory officials and courts apply the non-scientific standard that such waters do not have a direct surface connection to other bodies of water. It is estimated that as much as 20 to 30 percent of the nation's wetlands might be deemed "isolated" on that basis. In the short term, a guidance would limit the ability of regulatory officials and others to make arbitrary decisions removing wetlands from jurisdiction.

S. 2780 and H.R. 5194 provide the long-term solution. The legislation would clarify that Congress intends for Clean Water Act protections to apply to all such waters as waters of the United States, based on a longstanding definition of waters of the United States in Army Corps of Engineers regulations. The bills would also delete the word "navigable" from the Clean Water Act to clarify that the primary concern of Congress in 1972, and now, is the protection of the nation's waters from pollution, rather than just to sustain the navigability of waterways.

"Thirty years after the Clean Water Act was passed to 'restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of our nation's waters,' we know a whole lot more about how to make that happen," noted Ed Hopkins. "We know that streams, ponds and wetlands interact and function together as part of our water environment. They are really not isolated, and if we want to minimize flooding, have clean water, and provide habitat for the many species that depend on our waters, we should safeguard all the various kinds of waterbodies."

A few states have their own regulations which limit pollution discharges, filling, ditching and draining affecting isolated waters. The majority of states do not have laws and regulations to fill the void. In the wake of the SWANCC ruling, a successful effort (in which the Sierra Club was instrumental) was waged in Senator Feingold's home state of Wisconsin to adopt a new

## What's Happening at the Chapter Office?

Welcome to several new staff people in the Denver office!

First is **Deb Robison**, the new Environmental Voter Education Campaign staff person in Denver. Deb was volunteering for us on the Legislative Committee and the Election Action Committee when we convinced her to take this job to educate the public about federal candidates' records on the environment. Many candidates want to be seen as "green," and sometimes we have to step in and be the "environmental truth squad." Deb has worked previously as a Japanese translator and in the Governor's trade office. She has a terrific instinct for organizing and getting media attention for our issues, and she is always looking for people to go hiking with her.

In September, **Eric Huber** started as a Senior Staff Attorney for the Club working out of the Boulder office. After graduating from CU, Eric was an attorney at EarthJustice for seven years. He will be litigating cases nationwide with an emphasis on the Rocky Mountain region, working initially on clean water and forestry related cases. He lives with his wife Becky, a massage therapist, and their 5-year-old son, Asa. They enjoy hiking, camping and backpacking.

Fort Collins activist **Janna Six** has also been working for us on a short-term basis to promote our Renewable Energy Campaign and encourage Xcel to invest more in wind power. In September, she organized a rally at Xcel headquarters in Denver to deliver 4000 citizen postcards to the Colorado Vice President of the company.

Finally, we are very excited to begin our John Wade Internship this fall, as a way to connect the Sierra Club and environmental issues with Colorado's Faith Community. **Alicia Roxanne Forde** is a third year Master of Divinity student at The Iliff School of Theology and is interested in exploring the reality of bridging the gap between spiritual/religious communities and environmental concerns within our local and world community. She got her Bachelors degree at UNC, and has traveled around the world as a member of the Air Force and Air National Guard. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church. ■



Susan LeFever  
Chapter Director

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



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

### Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag

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email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my  Mastercard  Visa Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32



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.



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Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 52968  
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

# Environmental Groups Offer A Common Vision On Fire Policy

Steve Smith, Associate Southwest Regional Representative

The Message to the Forest Service is Clear: Protect Communities First!

The Forest Service should redirect its resources to make protecting people and communities from wildfires its top priority, according to a plan released today by a coalition of environmental organizations. Given President Bush's August announcement of a fire policy framework based on gutting forest safeguards, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, American Lands, and other environmental groups proposed a \$10 billion plan based on research by Forest Service scientists as a blueprint for the Bush Administration and the Forest Service.

It's time for bold actions that will defend communities like Glenwood Springs, Durango, and other towns threatened by wildfires. America needs the Forest Service to make protecting lives and communities from fires its number-one mission. Putting Forest Service resources to work safeguarding communities at risk of fire, this plan will save lives, save homes, and ultimately save money.

Decades of fire suppression, overlogging and recent years of drought led to this summer's wildfires, such as the fires witnessed in Colorado this year. In an effort to work cooperatively with the Administration, the Forest Service and local communities, this plan calls for funding and personnel to be focused in Community Protection Zones, so no communities remain at unnecessary risk.

"Decades of fire suppression, combined with severe drought, now put many communities near forests at risk," said Greg Aplet, Forest Ecologist for The Wilderness Society. "We need to concentrate our forest rehabilitation efforts where they do the most good, where people live."

"If we put people first, we'll do two things: we'll focus people where the people are, and we'll put enough workers on the job to protect the people," said Roger Kennedy, former Director of the National Park Service. "That means tinder-reduction - not timber production, in the community protection zone. And it means that we have to get serious about protecting both the people there and the people who would have to rescue them from fires. This is the right plan."

The seven-point plan includes:

- Do the most important work first. Make protection of communities from fires the Forest Service's Number One Priority.
- Provide meaningful funding. This program should be a minimum of five years and funded at \$2 billion a year to go directly to fireproofing homes and removing hazardous fuels in the Community Protection Zones.
- Match personnel to work. Shift Forest Service personnel skilled in preparing brush clearing and thinning projects from backcountry, low priority areas to the Community Protection Zones.
- Carry out immediately the vast majority of fuel reduction projects in the Community Protection Zones that raise no significant environmental issues.
- Restore natural fires to have natural forests. Prescribed burns can help to reduce fuel buildup and restore healthy forest habitats.
- Protect our ancient and wild forest from logging and logging roads.
- Stop the attack on forest protection safeguards

"No community deserves to be left at risk of wildfire," said Harlin Savage, Southern Rockies Organizer for American Lands Alliance. "The Forest Service should focus its people and resources on Community Protection Zones, not let them be diverted to lower-priority backcountry projects."

A wide range of environmental groups contributed to the development, ideas and information behind this policy. They include: the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Center for Biological Diversity, American Lands, National Forest Protection Alliance, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Hells Canyon Preservation Council, The Lands Council, National Environmental Trust, US Public Interest Research Group, World Wildlife Fund, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, California Wilderness Coalition, Southwest Forest Alliance, Pacific Biodiversity Institute and others. ■

# Getting Burned by the Timber Industry

Douglas Bevington

Volunteer Outreach Liaison for the Sierra Club's ECL Committee

The Sierra Club's national conservation priority campaign on our national forests, End Commercial Logging (ECL), has been making great progress. In April, over 200 esteemed scientists signed on to a letter endorsing ECL. Meanwhile, the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (H.R. 1494), a cornerstone of the ECL campaign, has continued to gain cosponsors and is now more than half way to a majority in Congress.

Faced with these successes, the timber industry has launched a cynical media campaign to blame forest protection for this summer's fires in the drought-stricken West. Nothing could be further from the truth. Numerous scientific reports have shown that logging actually increases fire risk and severity. The government's National Fire Plan states, "removal of large, merchantable trees from forests does not reduce fire risk and may, in fact, increase that risk." Logging removes the large trees that are most fire resistant and opens up the canopy, making the forest hotter, drier, and more fire prone.

Fire is a natural and necessary part of western forest ecosystems. However, the legacy of logging and fire suppression has left some forests likely to burn hotter. Because of this, scientists and environmentalists have supported efforts to supplement prescribed burning with 'manual treatment' when necessary to restore a healthy fire ecology. These treatments may involve some cutting, but are very different from what we think of as logging.

As the Forest Service's Fire Specialist Denny Truesdale stated, "What is needed is to take care of the underbrush and dry twigs. The majority of the material that we need to take out is not commercial timber. It is up to three and four inches in diameter. We can't sell it."

But the timber industry doesn't want to prune brush; it wants to cut big trees because big trees mean big profits. So there has been tremendous pressure on the Forest Service to turn so-called fire risk reduction projects into the same old destructive logging as usual that cuts large trees and actually increases fire risk. We are seeing many examples of this throughout the national forest system.

Our forests don't need repackaged timber sales. They need genuine, noncommercial restoration, as only H.R. 1494 will provide. Contrary to timber industry misinformation, this bill does not preclude any activity necessary for ecological restoration and it includes clear provisions for fire risk reduction. Moreover, H.R. 1494 ensures the funding for this work.

At present, the Forest Service's timber sale program operates at net loss to taxpayers of over a billion dollars per year! H.R. 1494 ends this wasteful and destructive program and redirects funds into noncommercial restoration, as well as wood use reduction and more than \$300 million per year in taxpayer savings. Please ask your Congressperson to oppose the deceptive new bait-and-switch logging scams and stand up for our national forests by cosponsoring H.R.1494. ■

## Fire Legislation • from page 1

salvage harvests do little to reduce crown fire hazard. In these harvests, crown bulk densities, ladder fuels, and crown base heights are little changed by the removal of a few trees, and the potential for severe fire may actually be increased, if the fuels are not reduced."

The Forest Service report continues, "The wildland-urban interface is where people face the greatest risk from severe wildfires...[they] seem like a good place to start."

Meanwhile, it is important to note that, in the four years since the Forest Service's fire program began, Sierra Club has not appealed or protested a single logging project or prescribed burn in Colorado (or in Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico,

Arizona, or Utah, for that matter) that would genuinely reduce fire danger where people live. We have opposed the portions of some projects that would remove moisture conserving big trees.

### What You Can Do

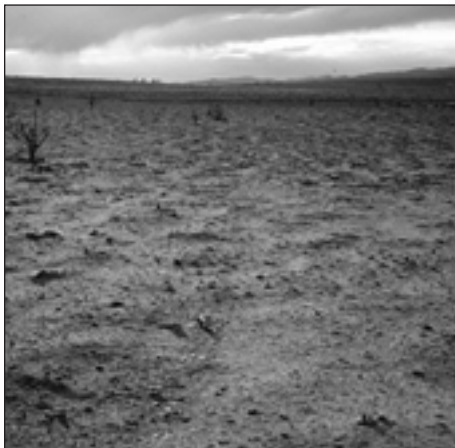
Tell the President, U.S. Representative and Senators, and your local newspaper that you support reducing fire danger near communities through careful thinning and prescribed burning near those communities. Tell them that you oppose the Bush-McInnis plan because it will actually increase fire danger while not protecting communities.

For more information, please contact Steve Smith - (303) 449-5595, [steve.smith@sierraclub.org](mailto:steve.smith@sierraclub.org). ■



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer

Fourth from the front, Troy Scott Parker of Boulder leads two dozen volunteers to repair fire damage and to improve hiking trails as part of the Cheesman Canyon Restoration Project. The volunteers spent about six hours on August 25 reseeding burnt areas and making trail improvements to help maintain the ecology of this prime trout habitat.



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer

A broken beer bottle is all that is left of this burnt grassland at Dinosaur National Monument.

# HOLIDAY SHOP FOR COLORADO WILDERNESS!

**NATURE'S OWN to donate profits from your purchases**

by Steve Smith, Associate Southwest Regional Representative

Wouldn't it be great if every penny of your holiday shopping could also help save Colorado's wonderful wild places? This year it can! From November 1st - 27th, just shop at any of the five Nature's Own stores and say "I support Colorado wilderness" at the register, and Nature's Own will donate 100 percent of the purchase price to the protection of Colorado wilderness. Your shopping dollars will assist the Colorado Wilderness Network - including Sierra Club - in its efforts to permanently protect 1.65 million acres of Colorado's spectacular and wild canyon lands.

Nature's Own has great gift ideas for everybody on your list: locally-made jewelry, minerals, fossils, science toys, carved stone, books, artwork, and more. For more information, visit [www.cowilderness-network.org](http://www.cowilderness-network.org) or call Steve Smith - (303) 449-5595, (970) 945-4490, [steve.smith@sierraclub.org](mailto:steve.smith@sierraclub.org). ■

### NATURE'S OWN Store Locations

<b>Boulder:</b>	Crossroads Mall 1700 28th Street 303-544-0592
<b>Estes Park:</b>	125 E. Elkhorn Avenue 970-577-0277
<b>Fort Collins:</b>	201 Linden Avenue 970-484-9701
<b>Breckenridge:</b>	411 S. Main Street 970-453-2946
<b>Nederland:</b>	5 E. First Street 303-258-3557

[www.naturesown.com](http://www.naturesown.com)

# BE A PART OF OUR CHAPTER'S SUCCESS

## ENERGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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

## OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

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

## OUTINGS VICE CHAIR

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

## Affordable Housing Trust Fund Update

Bill Myers, *Affordable Housing Issue Liaison, RMC Air Quality Chair*  
*Sierra Club, Challenge to Sprawl Campaign Committee Priority Campaign Member*

The creation of affordable housing, which is defined as housing consuming no more than 30% of a family's income, has been a continued Sierra Club national and chapter priority for several years. Providing affordable housing is also the number one priority of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and is being addressed nationally by the Sierra Club endorsed National Housing Trust Fund legislation sponsored by Sen. John Kerry (Mass) and Rep. Bernard Sanders (VT). Both Rep. Udall and Rep. DeGette are cosponsors of this legislation, while the rest of Colorado's congressional delegation remains opposed to creating this housing trust fund.

Affordable housing provides connections to transit, builds communities, reduces air and water pollution from long work and lifestyle commutes, and provides major environmental benefits. Currently, more than 80% of the teachers in Douglas County cannot afford to live in their county. On the west slope, counties such as Lake have more than 70% of their population commute to jobs outside their county (usually to Breckenridge and Vail) creating greater air and water pollution, excess need for roads, and community stresses caused by long commutes.

### What's New and Old about Affordable Housing

A 39-member coalition of conservation, community redevelopment, housing groups, faith based, and progressive organizations have united since 2000 to form the Colorado Affordable Housing Trust Fund coalition. The goal is a \$15 million statewide affordable housing trust that will provide housing for people earning up to 80% of area median income (\$48K in the metro Denver area). The Sierra Club sits as a member of the Steering Committee of this organization.

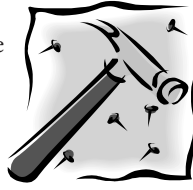
### Legislative Success – Governor's Vetoes

Housing advocates and the Sierra Club failed and succeeded last session. The Sierra Club testified in favor of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, but this bill died in House Appropriations. The Sierra Club testified in favor of creation of a Metropolitan Affordable Housing District. This bill was defeated in the House. Later in the session, due to Sierra Club and Colorado Coalition of the Homeless's lobbying efforts, it was re-introduced by Sen. Rob Hernandez in the Senate, where it passed with wide bipartisan support. It died in the House Local Government Committee, with Rep. Glenn Scott (R-Wtr) casting the deciding negative vote.

The one success was a baseline increase of the Division of Housing's budget from \$2.6 million to \$2.9 million. This divided the legislature during the budget debate. Governor Owens had supported an increase in the budget to \$4 million. Once the session ended, however, Governor Bill (flip-flop) Owens line item vetoed the entire affordable housing budget, eliminating affordable housing for 2002-3.

The coalition and the Sierra Club intend to pursue the creation of an affordable housing trust fund this coming legislative session, with better results.

For further information, or to help provide legislative support for affordable housing, contact Sierra Club housing advocates: Bill Myers, 303-935-6810, [billmyer@infi.net](mailto:billmyer@infi.net) or Environmental Justice Chair Kathy Glatz, [kj130@juno.com](mailto:kj130@juno.com). ■



## Economic Impacts of Affordable Housing in Colorado Impressive

Kathy Glatz, *Environmental Justice Chair*  
 Bill Myers, *Sierra Club Affordable Housing Issue Liaison, Challenge to Sprawl Campaign Committee*

The Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter, together with 21 other groups, paid for a study of the economic impacts of a statewide affordable housing program. The draft report (full release in September 2002), developed by Economic and Planning Systems, showed the community, social, and economic impacts that a \$26.5 million housing trust fund might have.

In Colorado, affordable housing needs remain a crisis. The Division of Housing identifies the need for 107,170 housing units (2,000 emergency shelter, 47,600 deep subsidy rentals, 18,880 worker rentals, and 38,690 subsidized homeownership units), half of which could be met by an affordable housing trust fund.

The non-renewal of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and Governor Owens's veto of the Division of Housing's \$2.9 million line item for affordable housing has left Colorado without significant funding to meet these affordable housing needs.

### Community and Social Benefits

**Health** – Helping families to move into better quality housing, elimination of lead-based paint hazards, and savings in public health care costs.

**Family Stability** – 3,800 low-income households will have access to decent affordable housing, leading to a better chance at school success for children.

**Growth and Transportation** – Providing affordable housing opportunities near employment centers will limit sprawl and traffic congestion. Shorter commute times will build community participation in civic and school activities.

**Welfare to Work** – Colorado families can expect increased access to work and employment success.

**Economic Development** – A diversity of housing types near employment centers enhances Colorado's competitive position in attracting and retaining business.

### Economic Benefits

**Employment** – More than 2,800 new jobs will be directly and indirectly supported.

**Spending** – Nearly \$295 million of new economic activity from construction and real estate related activity.

**Construction** – This industry will have \$159 million in spending and 1,145 jobs.

**Real Estate** – An additional \$1.2 million and 4 new jobs.

**Tax Revenues** – Increased business and household spending (by reducing the rent/housing burden) will generate sales tax revenue of \$4.3 million, new property tax revenue of \$2.8 million, and \$1.8 million in state income tax revenue.

**Spending Patterns** – Former rent/housing burdened households will have an average of \$2,460 annual income to spend on other goods, including health care, food, and transportation.

### Funding Sources

A smaller study by EPS examined possible funding sources for a statewide housing trust fund. The two best sources for revenue were found to be a real estate transfer fee or a documentary recording fee.

The Sierra Club looks forward to working in coalition with other groups to promote an affordable housing trust fund this coming political season. ■

## The Drought Continues...

Compiled by Mary Romano and the Lifestyles Education Committee

Colorado is in the midst of its worst drought in the past 25 years (in some areas of Colorado, it is the worst in over 100 years). Storage levels in local reservoirs are very low and we will continue to need to be extremely frugal with our water use for at least the next year.

While landscaping is by far the biggest water user, opportunities for conservation exist inside the home as well. An individual may use as much as 60 to 80 gallons of water each day. This is a great time to implement water-wise habits. Here are some ideas:

### Change Your Habits

- When you wash your hands, wet them, turn off the water, soap up, and turn it back on to rinse.



— by Mark Itkonen, Photographer  
 Water levels at Lake Granby, source of the Colorado River, are at historic lows.

- Don't leave water running while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Don't rinse dishes before putting them into the dishwasher.
- When washing dishes by hand, use a pan or smaller wash-basin. Rinse items in a rinse basin.
- Clean produce in a small basin or pan.
- Use water more than once: dump water used for dishes or rinsing vegetables onto your outside landscape.
- Reduce use or eliminate the garbage disposal. It's better to start a compost pile (free nutrients for your yard and garden).
- Limit time in the shower to less than five minutes.
- Do not flush with every use: flush only when necessary.
- Run clothes and dish washers only with full loads.

### Change Your Hardware

- Install water-saving devices such as low-flow showerheads.
- An easy, low-cost helper is an on/off aerator for your kitchen sink.
- If your appliances are old and about to be replaced anyway, replace them with newer high-efficiency models. Toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush are available. High-efficiency clothes washers now use approximately 40 percent less water and energy than existing models.
- Find and repair all leaks. Fix a runny toilet ASAP. This could waste as much as 4,000 gallons per day.
- Install a toilet dam (a simple plastic bottle filled with sand and water).

### Cool it Outdoors

- Check with your water provider for limitations to times, days, duration, and conditions for watering landscape. Some restrictions have changed now that fall is here. Denver has restricted all watering of turf after Oct. 1. Special advice is available to ensure trees survive.
- Many municipalities have restrictions on washing outdoor surfaces. Don't hose the driveway; sweep it instead.
- Check with your water provider to verify that washing your car is allowed. If you wash your car, do so with a bucket on a cool day. Soap the car, rinse with fresh water from the bucket, then share the water with your landscape. ■

### Additional information is available at:

**Denver Water:** 303-893-2444; <http://www.denverwater.com>  
**Boulder Public Works:** 303-441-4426;  
<http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/publicworks/depts/utilities/drought/>  
**Colorado Springs Utilities:** <http://www.csu.org/>  
**Fort Collins Utilities:** <http://www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/water/drought.php>  
**KOAA Online:** The Drought Project [http://www.koaa.com/community/features/drought\\_project/](http://www.koaa.com/community/features/drought_project/)  
**Drought and Fire Resources from Colorado State University:** <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/>  
**NOAA site on drought:** <http://www.drought.noaa.gov/>  
**Climate Prediction Center Drought Outlook:** [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/seasonal\\_drought.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html)

## Pesticides Poison Colorado Farm Workers

by Kimi Jackson

As we enjoy the bounty of harvest season, the farm workers who pick our crops would like us to be aware of the dangers workers face year after year. These dangers are illustrated in a report released by Colorado Legal Services, Migrant Farm Worker Division. The report, *Hidden Costs: Farm Workers Sacrifice their Health to Put Food on Our Tables*, examines a survey of migrant farm workers conducted in Colorado during the 2001 growing season. The detailed survey asked for information about the farm workers' experience with pesticides, training and medical conditions.

The report shows that Colorado farm workers frequently experience pesticide poisoning, and that many employers illegally place their workers' health and lives in danger. For example, fifty-nine percent of the surveyed farm workers reported that they had never received training in pesticide safety, which is required under United States laws. After working in the fields, forty-nine percent of the farm workers reported experiencing skin irritation, headaches, or inflamed eyes.

Current compliance levels appear to be very low. In 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency inspectors found that ninety-one percent of inspected Colorado growers were in violation of pesticide safety laws. Increased compliance would lead to fewer pesticide exposures and fewer poisonings of farm workers.

"The workers are treated as disposable", says Kimi Jackson, director of Colorado Legal Services' Casillas Pesticide Action Project (CPAP). "If they get injured or sick, employers think they can just get more. But the workers are human beings with families to feed."

CPAP's name honors the memory of José Casillas, a seventeen-year-old farm worker who died after being sprayed with pesticides twice during a seven-day period. Lacking pesticide training, he thought he had been sprayed with water and he continued wearing his contaminated clothing and even slept in it.

For a copy of the report, contact Kimi Jackson at 970-353-7554 or [kjackson@colegalserv.org](mailto:kjackson@colegalserv.org).

**WILD PLACES** You are invited..

Please join us **Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** at Denver's beautiful Brown Palace Hotel for a special evening filled with both live and silent auctions and gourmet dining with proceeds raised to benefit the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club. Sierra Club President Jennifer Ferenstein will be our featured guest.

**OPEN SPACES**

— Presenting The Third Annual Sierra Club Auction —

*wild places*  
*open spaces*

The evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with a silent auction.

Mark your calendars now—you don't want to miss this special event!  
 Please call 303.861.8819 to purchase your tickets today  
 or to learn more details about this special event.

## Colorado's Newest Endangered Species: Wildlife Management

by Mike Smith, RMC Wildlife Chair

As some wag once observed, "The future isn't what it used to be." That certainly holds true for our wildlife. Here in Colorado, over the past two years, equitable, credible wildlife decision-making (the kind that balances all interests and fosters the consent and good will of the general public) has been replaced with a wildly-skewed, special-interest-ridden system that routinely disregards the wishes of general public and the needs of the very wildlife it is supposed to protect. As a result, responsible wildlife management has indeed become an endangered species in Colorado.

Shortly after taking office, Governor Owens began packing Colorado's wildlife power structure. A pro-development, ex-Club 20 Director, Greg Walcher, now heads the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and a term-limited legislator and lawyer, Russell George, heads the Division of Wildlife; the first DOW Director in history with no professional training or experience in wildlife management. Mr. Walcher has since hired a former Mountain States Legal Foundation staffer as DNR's Endangered Species Coordinator and another as DOW's Legislative Liaison. DNR now also routinely vets all mid- and upper-level DOW hires and maintains a stranglehold on DOW's public information, reviewing DOW's press releases and demanding that DOW staff refer press and public queries to DNR.

Owens and Walcher have also packed the Colorado Wildlife Commission with special interests. Five of the nine Commissioners now have direct ties to livestock and ranching; two more work in real estate development and construction. Behind the scenes, Walcher and Commissioner of Agriculture Don Ament, a rancher, wield enormous influence as non-voting Commission members.

For wildlife, the results have been disastrous. Special interests routinely trump the

expert recommendations of DOW biologists. Colorado's lynx reintroduction program is currently held hostage by DNR and Wildlife Commission demands for an "Experimental/Non-Essential" (ENE) designation for our tiny lynx population. An ENE designation would enable ranchers and others to kill lynx with virtually no risk of prosecution. In the meantime, the few remaining lynx gradually vanish into memory, too widely dispersed to find mates and reproduce.

In another special-interest fiasco, the Wildlife Commission recently bowed the pressure from hawking clubs to falconers to capture of peregrine falcon chicks from the wild for use in their sport. In so doing, the Commission ignored the pleas of DOW biologists, overwhelming public testimony, and even its own public commitment two years prior not to allow any private take until a five-year monitoring period had passed and the results were analyzed. The Denver Post reported their bizarre decision the next day under the headline, "Commission flouts falcon pact."



- by Mark Itkonen, Photographer  
This elk cow has her head up and is calling out to the rest of the harem at Rocky Mountain National Park.

The DOW's once-highly-regarded public process is now also routinely violated to the point of chaos. DOW recommendations are released for public comment at the very last minute, sometimes even after the public comment deadline has passed. Votes are sometimes taken on issues that never appear on the published agenda, and

Commission Chair Rick Enstrom often cuts environmental testimony short. At least one recent attempt by Enstrom to short-circuit testimony was actually declared illegal by the Commission's own legal counsel. Even Public notification of official DNR and DOW wildlife meetings is manipulated and selective. When environmental groups learned about a major DOW meeting after reading about it in the paper the next day, Director George responded to complaints by

See "Wildlife Management" on page 13

## National Energy Policy Debate at Crossroads

CALL NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Steve Smith, Associate Southwest Regional Representative

As you read this, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives continue work on national energy legislation, attempting to combine and compromise between a terrible bill approved by the House and an only modestly better bill passed by the Senate.

The House version would, among many other things:

- open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain to oil drilling;
- reduce environmental protections and citizen input on oil and gas production in Colorado and other western states;
- eliminate existing protections for many roadless and fragile public lands;
- mandate rapid expansion of coal and uranium fueled power plants, again compromising environmental review and protections on the way;
- provide only token support to renewable energy and energy efficiency, doing nothing to increase the efficiency of automobiles, our greatest consumers of oil.

The Senate bill would:

- protect the Arctic Refuge from drilling;

- streamline permits or oil and gas drilling in the west;
- waive key provisions of the Clean Water Act to encourage production of coal bed methane gas;
- actually reduce the fuel efficiency of pickup trucks and SUVs.

As seen from that short list of examples, environmental advocates have little with which to work in seeking a sustainable, sensible, economical national energy policy. It is important that the final legislation not get worse. Your letters and calls are important in making that difficult effort more effective.

Colorado's Senator Ben Campbell is a member of the House-Senate conference committee on energy policy, so an especially important person for Colorado Sierra Club members to contact. Your letters to Senator Allard and to your Congressman are very important, too.

Much more information on the energy issue, including Sierra Club's own recommendations for good policy is available at the internet site: [sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org) or by contacting Steve Smith - (303) 449-5595, [steve.smith@sierraclub.org](mailto:steve.smith@sierraclub.org) ■

## Genetic Engineering Safeguards

There are currently 4 bills in the House of Representatives that address genetic engineering. Those bills are:

HB 4812 - Genetically Engineered Crops and Animal Farmer Protection Act - this bill provides protections to farmers and ranchers that may be harmed economically by genetically engineered seeds, plants, or animals and ensures fairness for farmers and ranchers in their dealings with biotech companies that sell genetically engineered seed, plants or



animals and for other purposes. This is to be heard by the Committee on Agriculture.

HB 4813 - Genetically Engineered Food Safety Act - this bill amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act with respect to the safety of genetically engineered foods and for other purposes. This is to be heard by the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

HB 4814 - Real Solutions to World Hunger Act - this bill ensures that efforts to address world hunger through the use of genetically engineered animals and crops actually help developing countries and peo-

See "Genetic Engineering Bills" on page 7

### Ex-Com Statements • from page 1

If your ballot is missing or if you have any questions about the voting procedure, please call the Chapter office at (303) 861-8819.

Candidate statements follow in random order.

#### Roger Wendell

I've been active with the Sierra Club since 1988, having previously served as an At-Large member of the ExCom, Secretary, Outings Chair and Outings Webmaster for the Chapter. For the High Plains Group I've served as Chair, Secretary, Webmaster, Conservation Chair and ExCom delegate.

I've lead a number of hikes for the Sierra Club in addition to assisting with the Chapter's Earth Day booth, annual retreat, People's Fair events and numerous Peak & Prairie mailing parties.

I've spent most of my life in Colorado and have watched it change dramatically. I choose to take action in preserving our environment, our quality of life, and the natural world that surrounds us. Serving as an At-Large member of the Chapter ExCom is an excellent opportunity for me to continue serving our club and the environment.

#### Anne Cain

After a decade spent sailing around the world, my husband and I looking for mountains physical beauty, settled in Pueblo County. I've always been keenly interested in environmental conservation and very quickly became involved most specifically with clean air issues in Pueblo. As Conservation Chair and then as Chairperson for the Sangre de Cristo Group, I've had the opportunity of working with many others to promote the choice of safer technology in the disposal of the chemical weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Our success in turning from incineration to neutralization/biodegradation was in large measure a

function of the broad base of participants. In part because of this experience I believe that one of the most important jobs facing the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club is that of building coalitions with ranchers, farmers, labor unions and businesses. We all have a stake in the environment and need to seek areas of consensus.

#### Kirpal Singh

I believe I would be an excellent member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter's Executive Committee include my unique background and my experience as a grassroots organizer. Currently, I am student at the University of Denver, College of Law. I came to Denver after spending three year in Atlanta. Two of those years I worked as conservation organizer on the staff of the Georgia Chapter. Prior to my time with the Georgia Chapter, I ran canvass campaigns as a director in Evanston, Chicago, and Atlanta. I am only 27 years old and an Indian-American. I believe my organizing experience coupled with my age and background gives me a great perspective on what is needed at the administrative/decision-making level to make a grassroots organization like the Rocky Mountain Chapter more effective in protecting the environment; while at the same time bringing people into the Chapter who have not been traditionally represented.

#### Tony Ruckel

Background: Life Member. Executive Committee Rocky Mountain Chapter (1970s). National Board of Directors (1990s); President 1992-1993, Treasurer, Secretary, Founder, Rocky Mountain Office, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (Earth Justice). Staff Attorney, 14 years, emphasizing wilderness protection and management of public lands/resources. Recipient Club's William O. Douglas Award for lasting contributions to environmental law. Present national committees:

Legal, Litigation Approval, Investment Advisory, Corporate Relations.

Statement: The planet cannot afford environmental policies determined by narrow interests in Washington and elsewhere, taking advantage of the public's worry about economic, security, and international questions to the exclusion of environmental issues. Our chapters - the Rocky Mountain Chapter - are critical in raising the chorus of environmental concern. I am honored to run again for ExCom, and, if elected, I pledge to work to protect public lands, natural amenities of our urban space, and the air and water around us.

#### Lawrence Scott Skiffington

I am a 4th Generation Colorado native and Sierra Club Member for 30 years. I attended college at C.U. - Boulder and Law School in Utah. My early environmental activist experience included: (1) serving as a founding Member of the C.U. Wilderness Study Group which performed landmark work on Forest Service and BLM Wilderness, (2) advocating as a lobbyist for the Colorado Open Space Council and (3) working as a Staffer on land use issues for Governor Lamm. I have spent the past 22 years practicing environmental and healthcare law. I am also a Certified Mediator. I currently serve on the PPG Excom and the RMC Excom, Political, Legislative, and Legal Committees. I am committed to the mission, priorities and programs of the Chapter, and look forward to serving you as Members State-wide as a steward of your Chapter's programs and resources. I am excited about opportunities for leadership, collaboration and strategic alliances with other environmental groups, organized labor and other diverse groups to enhance Colorado's environment.

#### Dan Fosha

I've been an active member for 4 years with the Pikes Peak Group. Watching our

natural world steadily diminish motivated me to act. I have served many positions, as Conservation Committee Co-chair as well as wildlife committee chair. I serve on the El Paso County Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse HCP team, and currently am leading a campaign to protect open space at the Colorado Springs Airport. I am the president of the Southeast Chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society, and serve on the board of the Southern Plains Land Trust. Past experiences include spokesperson for Amendment 24 as well as having attended two Sierra Club Academies, and the League of Conservation Voters Environmental Leadership Institute. I feel I would be an asset to the Chapter Ex-Comm., and hope that I will have the opportunity to serve. I ask that you vote for me as an at-large candidate.

#### Petition Candidate - Bill Myers

I am running to support the conservation community's efforts to control sprawl, provide affordable housing and livable communities, protect open space, and keep urban environmental issues as necessary priorities for the Sierra Club.

Five years of my work to improve metro Denver air quality resulted in installation of pollution controls on all 3 power plants, and increased visibility of 12 to 50 miles.

If re-elected, I will continue to energize other volunteers, undertake the needed campaign for a statewide affordable housing trust fund, and RTD's FasTracks for speedy build-out of rail lines throughout Denver, increase the Club's visibility and vitality, and improve its fundraising efforts. The Club's work on sprawl makes this an important issue that all voters support and insures the Chapter's success.

Offices and Award: Conservationist of the Year 1999, Council Delegate, Air Quality Chair, Affordable Housing Issues Liaison, national Challenge to Sprawl Campaign committee member, 1998 - present. ■



## OPINION

### Drought

It is depressing to read the words of experts (Peak & Prairie, Aug/Sep 2002) who correctly represent how we got into the present water situation here in the Front Range and who then make recommendations for long-term solutions that won't solve the problem, e.g., innovative approaches in storage, use and conservation.

On P.5 ("Banking the Water") is a correct representation of how we got into the present water situation.

*Our drought pinch stings more hotly because our state has expanded by one million new residents in the last ten years and another one million are scheduled to arrive this decade.*

Droughts are a matter of long record in the West, so no one, especially the experts, should be surprised by droughts. For decades we have followed a very liberal agenda of promoting population growth to the point where demand for water exceeds the known supply in dry years. As the famous biologist Garrett Harden observes, "We don't have a shortage of water, we have a longage of people."

In response to the crisis, the experts tell us that the only long-range solution is to build more storage reservoirs. They forget that we have been building water storage facilities for decades, and we are still in trouble. As long as population growth continues, building more reservoirs is not a long-term solution to the problem.

Most of us would willingly reduce our per capita water consumption if we could be sure that the water thus saved would wind up in the streams as additional flow to support of the ecosystems of the streams. But we know this is not what happens. The water we save will be sold to new subdivisions at below cost. The saved water thus becomes a subsidy for more growth which brings higher taxes and all of the problems of crowding and congestion.

Carl Pope, the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, understands the population problem very well. Testifying before the U.S. Commission on Population Growth and the American Future (1972), Pope said: (Vol.7, Pg.37-39):

*The United States is in serious environmental trouble. Ecological systems are not coping with the stresses imposed on them by the present human population, and as a result we are witnessing progressive deterioration of air, water, land, and our own internal biological and genetic environments. There are three elements in this system. The first is the number of people; the second is the impact which each person has on the ecosystem; the third is the system itself, with its other species, feedback mechanisms, and natural stabilizers. (emphasis added)*

As was pointed out in "Banking the Water," no end is in sight to population growth in Colorado. From this it follows that no end is in sight to the water shortages in Colorado or to the destruction of the environment in Colorado.

If we are to find a long-term solution to the water situation, and to saving the environment, we have to address the central causal problem which is population growth.

Albert A. Bartlett  
E-Mail: [Albert.Bartlett@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Albert.Bartlett@Colorado.EDU)

## You can't save prairies without Joe and Jane Farmer

By Debbie F. Slobe, *Communications Team Leader, Playa Lakes Joint Venture*

We've all heard the bad news about our nation's prairies: they are in serious decline and are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. We try to stop this trend by fighting development, buying up land, and imposing federal regulations. But we sometimes overlook the one tactic that has immediate and positive impacts: partnering with private landowners.

In the Texas Panhandle, more than 90 percent of the native prairie habitat is privately owned, as is much of the short and mid-grass prairie in other Great Plains states. Some environmental groups have shied away from approaching landowners; perhaps they assume they have no common conservation interests. But that assumption is untrue. Landowners will do what makes sense economically, as any good businessperson would. And there are many ways to make conservation on private land profitable, from the Farm Bill's \$17 billion in conservation dollars to promoting eco-tourism. Our challenge is to identify and support development of such opportunities.

Many private landowners are already protecting prairie habitat in harmony with agricultural practices. Groups like the Sand Hills Task Force, Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation, Rainwater Basin, and Playa Lakes Joint Ventures leverage funds, biological expertise and outreach efforts to benefit prairie wetlands and uplands in the Great Plains states. These groups bring conservationists, hunters, state and federal wildlife agencies, corporations, and educators all to the same table. The partnerships make for an effective, non-partisan front when approaching landowners.

If we are to preserve what's left of our nation's prairies, we must utilize every tactic available and realize that private landowners are also valued partners. Playa Lakes Joint Venture urges Sierra Club chapters to get involved in such partnerships at the local level.

Contact info:  
Debbie F. Slobe  
Communication Team Leader  
Playa Lakes Joint Venture  
103 E. Simpson  
Lafayette, CO 80026

## Trade Pacts Can Make Uncle Sam Pay Local Polluters!!!

by Robert Cohen, *RMC International and Trade Issues Chair*

You may be shocked to learn that under Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), whose parties are Mexico, Canada, and the USA, Uncle Sam can be compelled to pay damages to foreign companies if their pollution is banned by local, regional, state, or federal agencies. Now the Administration is trying to broaden NAFTA by helping to form the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). FTAA would encompass the entire Western Hemisphere (with the exception of Cuba) and would include a total of 34 nations. Recently the Bush Administration succeeded in facilitating the formation of FTAA and the adoption of new FTAA and World Trade Organization (WTO) trade pacts through enactment of "Fast Track" legislation, or "Trade Promotion Authority" (TPA). Now that TPA is law, the United States trade negotiators will probably attempt to insert

See "Opinion: Trade Pacts" on page 13

## Mosquitoes? West Nile Virus?

by Angela Medbery

Did you provide many mosquitoes meals this summer? Are you concerned about the West Nile virus?? The mosquitoes may not be back until next summer but now is the time to start budgeting for a long-term reduced mosquito world without the toxic pesticides.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for mosquitoes can include use of small gambusia fish and B.t. donuts in breeding areas. Birds and bats can deal with those larva which survive to adulthood.

Ask your county commissioners and city council folks to include funding for a local comprehensive IPM mosquito program as they now work on the 2003 budget. Then early next spring begin the implementation of the program so you can enjoy a summer of reduced mosquito exposure, bites and transmitted diseases.

If you would like further information please contact me at 303-433-2608 or [a.medbery@juno.com](mailto:a.medbery@juno.com). ■

### Clean Water • from page 3

law to extend protection to isolated waters. Similar initiatives in a few other state legislatures during 2001-02 were not so successful. In some states Sierra Club wetlands activists are continuing to build support for these state-level efforts, while recognizing that it is critically important for the floor of federal Clean Water Act protection of all the nation's waters to be restored. In announcing his legislation, Senator Feingold noted, "The patchwork of regulation created in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling means that the standards for protection of wetlands nationwide is unclear, confusing, and jeopardizing the migratory birds and other wildlife that depend on these wetlands. Congress needs to reestablish the common understanding of the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction to protect all waters of the U.S. — the understanding that Congress had when it adopted the Act in 1972."

In an Aug. 1, 2002 editorial, "Save the Prairie Potholes", the Washington Post endorsed the legislation and noted that it "deserves strong support and prompt action by Congress." Sierra Club members are urged to contact their members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor S. 2780 and H.R. 5194. The legislation is available for review at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org/wetlands](http://www.sierraclub.org/wetlands) or contact Robin Mann, Sierra Club National Wetlands Working Group, [robinmann@earthlink.net](mailto:robinmann@earthlink.net), or 610-527-4598.

For information on the wetlands and waters affected by the SWANCC ruling, by region, and the important habitat functions at risk, visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) or [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) to review a new study released by the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, entitled "Wetlands at Risk: Imperiled Treasures". The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a report on Geographically Isolated Wetlands, available at <http://wetlands.fws.gov/>. ■

### State Victories • from page 1

streams were protected, at least for a few months more. Even now, however, the legislature's interim committees are meeting to draft legislation that could renew threats of bad water and forest policy. We are working together to influence that interim work, anticipating a more concerted effort during the regular session in January.

For more information on those continuing efforts and to learn how you can help, contact Susan LeFever – (303) 861-8819 or Steve Smith – (303) 449-5595. ■

### Genetic Engineering Bills • from page 6

ples while protecting human health and the environment, and for other purposes. This goes to the Committee on International Relations, and also to the Committees on Ways and Means, Financial Services and Agriculture in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

HB 4815 – Genetically Engineered Organism Liability Act – this bill assigns liability for injury caused by genetically engineered organisms. It goes to the Committees on the Judiciary and Energy and Commerce.

Full text of each of these bills is available at <http://www.thecampaign.org/legislation.htm#national>. This site also allows you to click on your senators and representatives and print out a letter in support of each bill. Ask your Representative to co-sponsor the House bills. Ask your Senator to write and sponsor a bill in the Senate. ■



## ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE *Save Trees and Money!*

### Tell Us How YOU Want to Receive the Peak & Prairie

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

### MONETARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS VERSUS BENEFITS

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

### REQUESTING ELECTRONIC PEAK & PRAIRIE

If you choose to receive Peak & Prairie in electronic form, we will notify you via electronic mail each time a new issue of Peak & Prairie is available on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's web site – usually several days before the printed version is mailed. The notification will include a link for your browser which will take you directly to the new issue of Peak & Prairie on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's web site, which you will be able to view with Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free program available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)).

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

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

## WHEN EVERY VOTE COUNTS

By Susan LeFever

On off-year elections, many people think their vote doesn't matter. That is probably why only around 30% of registered voters will show up at the polls on November 5. But is there really a difference between the candidates? Aren't they all just "inderepublicrats" working for the same special interests and unconcerned about our lives and our environment?

No! The reality is that there is a big difference between many candidates on the environment. Consider the Colorado's race for the US Senate. Wayne Allard voted to allow mining companies to dump waste on public lands, threatening our ground water. Meanwhile, Tom Strickland defended Colorado's clean water against a corporate polluter who illegally dumped contaminated water as a member of the US Attorney's office.

Maybe the candidates are different, but do a handful of votes really matter? Absolutely! In a close race for the state House, just a few votes can determine the outcome. In 1998, Lois Tochtrop beat Kathi Williams by just 86 votes, far fewer than the number of Sierra club members in the area.

In this issue of the Peak and Prairie, we show you the candidates who have been endorsed by the Sierra Club. Our Political Committee and Executive Committee have looked at their records, their statements, and questionnaires they filled out. We have considered their chances for success and their willingness to work hard for the environment.

Now it's up to you, because this year, like every election, your vote counts! P.S. These are the endorsements we have made as we go to press in September. For the latest news on endorsements, contact the Chapter office at 303-861-8819.



Spread created by  
Susan LeFever  
RMC Director



Bill Thiebault, Candidate for Lt Governor



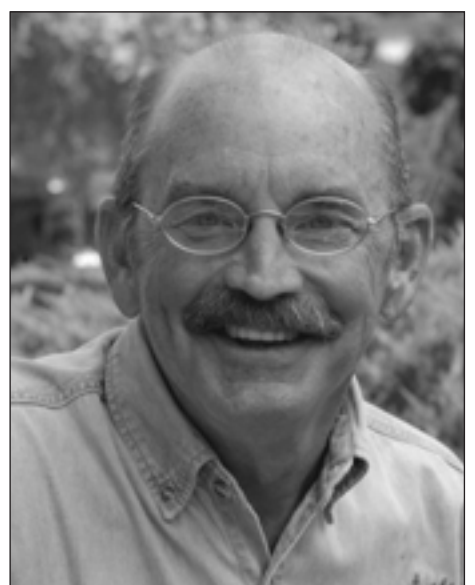
Abel Tapia, Candidate for State Senate District 3



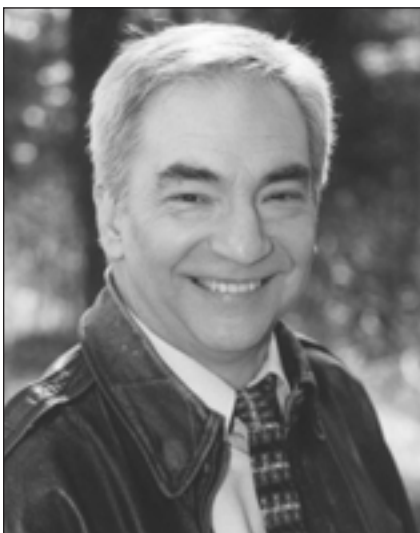
Buffie McFadyen, Candidate for State House District 47



Jack Pommer, Candidate for House District 11



Michael Merrifield, Candidate for State House District 18



Tony Marino, Candidate for State Senate District 11

## TONY MARINO FOR STATE SENATE

The Sierra Club has enthusiastically endorsed Tony Marino for State Senate District #11, newly created in El Paso County due to legislative redistricting. The Senate District encompasses all of House District #18 where Sierra Club endorsed Michael Merrifield is aggressively running in tandem with Marino.

Tony Marino is a former Marine and Viet Nam veteran, former narcotics cop and detective, husband, father of two adopted ethnically diverse sons, and independent businessman and community leader. Marino is an articulate leader and

holds strong positions on environmental issues including support for energy and water conservation policies, increased funding for open space, reversing the raid on GOCO funds to finance staff positions, and requiring local governments to adopt strong, enforceable master plans. In short, Tony Marino's victory at the state level is critical to Colorado.

## DAN SLATER – SENATE DISTRICT 2

By David Barber

Dan Slater has already made his mark on Pueblo as a leader on environmental issues. Now, as a candidate for Colorado Senate from District 2, has earned the Rocky Mountain Chapter's endorsement. "Dan has made a difference on environmental issues in his many years as a political activist," according to Ross Vincent, a Pueblo activist.

Slater has been one of the leaders in efforts to stop radioactive Superfund waste from being shipped to Fremont County from the East Coast. He also is working to protect rural Colorado's water from being transferred out of the local basin. Slater opposes the efforts to build a new cement plant in Pueblo County and publicly supported new BLM wilderness areas in Fremont County.

"We'd be pleased to have Dan Slater represent southeastern Colorado as its senator. He'll be a strong leader on environmental issues," says Anne Cain of the Sangre de Cristo Group.



# THE SIERRA CLUB LOOKS AHEAD TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

**SIERRA CLUB IS PROUD TO ENDORSE THE  
FOLLOWING CANDIDATES IN THE NOVEMBER  
2002 ELECTIONS:**

U.S. Senate: Tom Strickland  
 U. S. Congress  
   CD 1 Diana DeGette  
   CD 2: Mark Udall  
 Colorado Governor: Rollie Heath  
 Lt Governor: Bill Thiebault  
 Colorado State Senate:  
   SD 2: Dan Slater  
   SD 3: Abel Tapia  
   SD 11: Tony Marino  
   SD20: Moe Keller  
   SD 32: Dan Grossman  
 Colorado State House  
   HD3: Jennifer Veiga  
   HD4: Jerry Frangas  
   HD 6: Andrew Romanoff  
   HD 11: Jack Pommer  
   HD 12: Paul Weissman  
   HD10: Alice Madden  
   HD13: Tom Plant  
   HD18: Michael Merrifield  
   HD 21: Tim Snowden  
   HD 23: Kelley Daniel  
   HD 31: Paul Zimmerman  
   HD 35: Ann Ragsdale  
   HD 47: Buffie McFadyen  
   HD 52: Brian Jameson  
   HD 54: Bob Bacon  
   HD 64: Wes McKinley  
 County Commissioner:  
   Boulder: Tom Mayer  
 University of Colorado Regent:  
   CD 2: Cindy Carlisle

\* This list shows all the endorsements we have made as of September 15, 2002. Late endorsements will be announced locally. Or call the Chapter office for more information.

## TOM STRICKLAND FOR U.S. SENATE

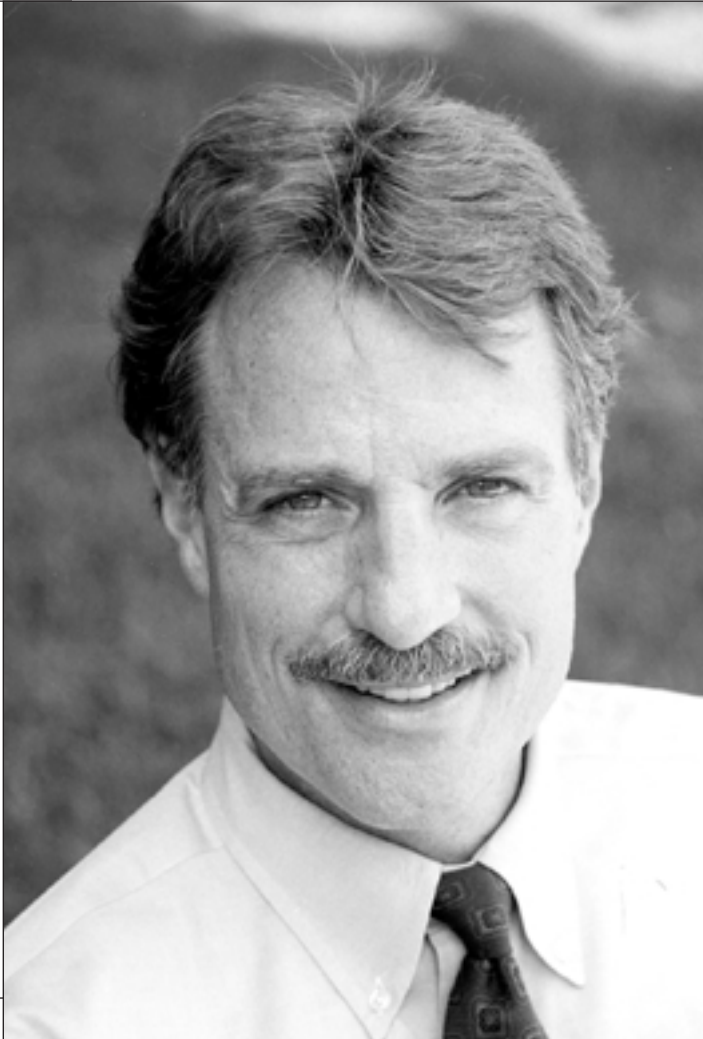
By Rebecca Dickson

*Tom's strong history of environmental advocacy makes him a candidate we can count on to preserve and protect the environment of Colorado and the nation.*

— Peggy Malchow, chair of the RMC Political Committee

Tom Strickland has an impressive environmental vision. He helped launch the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO), through which 350,000 acres of Colorado land has become park and open space. He is committed to increasing investment in public transit and renewable energy research. He supports making America more fuel efficient and encourages use of hybrid cars. He is firmly opposed to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; he believes the limited oil stores in ANWR are not worth the damage to that pristine environment. And Strickland has no sympathy for corporate irresponsibility — as US Attorney, he prosecuted polluters who failed to clean up their toxic sites.

According to Strickland, "As a U.S. Senator, the management of public lands would be one of my top priorities. I hope to have the opportunity to be the West's strongest advocate in the Senate. My environmental policy priorities would be to preserve open space and the tremendous quality of life we have here in Colorado, preserve wetlands and wilderness areas, reduce global warming and pollution, and improve public health by protecting our environment." The Sierra Club believes we need to increase the number of pro-environment leaders in Washington. Tom Strickland is such a leader.



Tom Strickland, Candidate for U.S. Senate

### 2002 GENERAL ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7 – Last day to register to vote  
 October 21 – Early voting begins  
 October 29 – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail  
 November 1 – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot if not mailed  
 November 1 – Last day for early voting  
 November 5 – Election Day! (Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)



Rollie Heath, Candidate for Colorado Governor

## CINDY CARLISLE FOR REGENT IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2

By Rebecca Dickson

The last few years have proved that the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado can have significant effect on the environment, especially as related to growth and open space protection. With this in mind, the Sierra Club has endorsed Cindy Carlisle for Regent in Congressional District 2. Regina Wheeler, chair of the Indian Peaks Group Political Committee, has this to say: "We are excited to support a candidate who recognizes the impact that CU has on the quality of life in Boulder County. Cindy Carlisle is committed to working with the community to raise the level of environmental awareness and cooperation."

Carlisle has an excellent record of public service and environmental protection. She is a founding member of the Flatirons Open Space Committee, served on the Board of Ecocycle, and in 1986 was elected to Boulder City Council on an environmental and wildlife conservation platform. She introduced the first pesticide ordinance in Colorado.



Cindy Carlisle, Candidate for Regent, 2nd CD

# BOOK REVIEWS

## GLOBAL SPIN: CORPORATE ASSAULT ON ENVIRONMENTALISM

Author: Dr. Sharon Beder  
Chelsea Green Publishing Co., Vermont, 1997

Commentary by Janet M. Eaton, PhD

The following review from Chelsea Green Publishing Company of *Global Spin: Corporate Assault on Environmentalism* provides an excellent overview of the strategies used to discredit environmentalists by corporate interests. There are invaluable insights into the spectrum of malicious opposition faced and essential knowledge for conducting campaigns and developing media savvy in addressing this negative bias.

I brought this book along to my first meeting with the newly established Sierra Club Corporate Accountability Committee in San Francisco a year ago, and have since received positive feedback from many on the committee who subsequently read it and passed the information along to other SC members.

Others well known in the environmental movement have praised this book. Sir Edward Goldsmith of the Ecologist (and co-author with Jerry Mander of *The Case Against the Global Economy and A Turn Toward the Local*) says of *Global Spin*: "The most complete study so far of the elaborate multi-billion dollar propaganda machine that the transnational corporations have built up to discredit the environmental movement."

**Sharon Beder's GLOBAL SPIN: CORPORATE ASSAULT ON ENVIRONMENTALISM**  
Chelsea Green Publishing Co., Vermont, 1997

*Global Spin* reveals the sophisticated techniques being used around the world by powerful forces to try to change the way the public and politicians think about the environment. Large corporations are using their influence to reshape public opinion, to weaken gains made by environmentalists, and to turn politicians against increased environmental regulation.



The corporations' techniques include

- Employing specialized PR firms to set up front groups that promote the corporate agenda whilst posing as public interest groups;
- Creating 'Astroturf' - artificially created grassroots support for corporate causes;
- Deterring public involvement by imposing SLAPPS-strategic lawsuits against public participation;
- Getting corporate-based environmental educational materials into schools;
- Funding conservative think tanks

which have persistently cast doubt on the existence of environmental problems and to oppose stricter environmental regulations.

In the media, corporate advertising and sponsorship are influencing news content, and industry-funded scientists are often treated as independent experts. In the shops, 'green marketing' is being used to reassure consumers that corporations are addressing serious environmental problems.

*Global Spin* shows how, in a relentless assault on democracy and its institutions, the massive, covert power of large corporations has enabled corporate agendas to dominate the international debate about the state of the environment and the most effective means of solving environmental problems.

Dr. Sharon Beder is a professional engineer and Senior Lecturer in Science and Technology Studies at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Other publications by Dr. Beder can be found at <http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/sbeder/#ESD>.

Dr. Janet Eaton is the Sierra Club of Canada liaison to the Sierra Club's Corporate Accountability Committee. She resides in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. For information on the Club's Corporate Accountability Campaign, see <http://bozeman.bigsky.net/drusha/cac/cac.htm>. ■

## CLIMB! THE HISTORY OF ROCK CLIMBING IN COLORADO

25th Anniversary Edition

Authors: Bob Godfrey, Dudley Chelton, and Jeff Achey  
Mountaineers Books

Reviewed by



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

I am always delighted to read new books on interesting topics. *Climb!* certainly inspired me with its amazing photos (over 200) of daredevil climbers on familiar landscapes. The story involves the history of climbing

and the legendary climbers who risked their lives throughout Colorado: Boulder, Eldorado Canyon, the Diamond, the South Platte, the Black Canyon, Shelf Road, Colorado Springs, Estes Park, Fort Collins, Aspen, Durango, and Telluride. Trends in climbing from technical to improvised free climbs of the 60s and 70s to the sport and extreme climbing of the 80s and 90s are illustrated with exhilarating recollections. Legends such as Henry Barber, Jim Dunn, Earl Wiggins, Mark Wilford, and Tommy Cladwell are boldly presented as heroes for the rest of us who aspire to defy gravity.

*Climb! the 25th Anniversary Edition* summons "events perpetrated by devotees and fanatics who forged the cutting edge of the times," says Jeff Achey. It will definitely galvanize a new generation of climbers (besides me).

Who are these guys?

The authors of *Climb!* include Bob Godfrey, an accomplished climber, writer, and filmmaker (coauthor with Dudley Chelton of both the first and 25th anniversary editions of *Climb!*); Dudley Chelton, a professor of oceanography at Oregon State University and expert climber and sailboarder; and Jeff Achey, an active climber, writer, photographer, freelance editor, and sometime painter and blacksmith. ■



# Life

## The "Great Turning" PART II

by Celeste Rossmiller, *Lifestyles Education Committee*

In the last issue of *P&P*, we began a series of three essays based on Joanna Macy's notion of "The Great Turning," when humans remembered how to live reciprocally within the planet's life-systems. The first phase of the turning are the holding patterns, resisting the most debilitating activities of the "Industrial Growth Society" [IGS]. The second part of the Great Turning is characterized by analysis of the structural causes of the current malaise and creation of alternative institutions and lifestyles.

In terms of analysis of the IGS, cultural historian Thomas Berry offers historical perspective on our current system. *The Great Work* (1999) critiques "The Corporation Story," "The Extractive Economy," and "The Petroleum Interval," using planetary functioning as the reference point. Current societal structures militate against intimacy with the natural world, Berry says, arising as they do from a mechanistic model based on "objective" observation. In its development and ongoing manifestation, the IGS privileges a very few persons, supported by legal, educational and governmental systems, while keeping most people functioning in support of the mechanisms of power and wealth that actually disempower them.

Both Berry and Macy challenge us to recognize our potential as individuals and communities to effect change. A recent issue of *Time* magazine (Aug. 26, '02) offered some of the hopeful structural changes that are underway, narrating the work of such thinkers as architect/industrial designer William McDonough and inventor/ economist Amory Lovins [see "New War on Waste"]. In one article after another, *Time* details the development of

alternative energy systems, transportation devices, and preservation of wilderness areas. "Too Green for Their Own Good," however, critiques environmental groups, who are "richer than ever" but unwilling to bend in the political scene, to give-and-take with the likes of corporations and the market. It seems worth noting, of course, that liberally sprinkled throughout this "Save the Earth" section of the magazine are full page ads by BP [British Petroleum] and "Council for Biotechnology Information."

Clearly, we cannot return to primitive agricultural or other technologies; but Berry and Macy help us to question whether we want to create a "technozoic" or "ecozoic" era. Growth and progress based on the mechanistic paradigms of the industrial growth society ["technozoic"] are divorced from the natural rhythms and cycles evolved by the planet over four billion years. The point is to let the planet be the primary educator, to see ourselves as members of the living planet—neither its masters nor its saviors—and to build our methods of self-nourishing, self-governing, and self-fulfilling on those already patterned by Earth. It's a massive paradigm shift, but history assures us that the planet has ridden those waves before. And the deep time of cosmic history points to plenty of "close calls" in which new ways of functioning emerged "just in time." We humans are simply part of that gripping story, called to insight (the cool analysis) and compassion (the "juice, the power, the passion to move" — Macy, 61).

Your Lifestyles Education Committee offers numerous ways to undertake the shift; contact info is found on the calendar pages. ■

## Close Encounters With Humpback Whales

by Gayle Lawrence

Have you always wanted to have one of those "larger than life experiences"? Well, floating in the water eye to eye with a humpback whale defines that phrase for me! What started out as a once in a life time encounter 4 years ago has turned into an annual winter trip to snorkel with humpback whales.

My first in-water encounter was on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Tingling with anticipation I slipped over the side of the boat into the water. I was astounded as I saw hanging motionless below me, a 40 ton, 45 ft. long, adult humpback whale!

White, wing-like 15 - foot pectoral fins shimmered as sunlight reflected off of them. She was so incredibly beautiful.

Floating on the surface like a limp piece of seaweed I thought is this really happening? Suddenly movement caught my eye as her small calf appeared from underneath her. He rolled over on his back and made eye to eye contact for several seconds, it left me dumbfounded! I felt that I had been acknowledged by a very intelligent and aware being.

See "Humpback Whales" on page 15

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# styles

## Discussion Circle Opportunity!

The Lifestyles/Education Committee is holding a Discussion Circle Orientation at 7:00 pm, October 23, 2002, at the First Universalist Church of Denver. Mary Romano will present a half hour orientation on four topics: Voluntary Simplicity, Deep Ecology, Sense of Place, and Choices for Sustainable Living. A 20-minute group-forming session will immediately follow the orientation.

The First Universalist Church of Denver is located at 4101 E. Hampden Avenue, the northeast corner of Colorado and Hampden Avenue.

Voluntary Simplicity, an eight-session course addressing the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment.

Deep Ecology and Related Topics, a nine-session course addressing core values and how they affect the way we view and treat the earth.

Discovering A Sense of Place, formerly called Bioregional Perspectives, a nine-session course focusing on knowing and protecting our place.

Choices for Sustainable Living, A nine-session course exploring the meaning of Sustainable living and the ties between

lifestyle choices and their impact on the earth.

The circles are designed to be fun and to provide a supportive group setting in which participants can examine their values and habits. Classes of 8-12 participants meet for a 1 to 1-1/2 hour session each week, in homes, workplaces, or other locations that are convenient for participants. All participants read a chapter (6-10 pages) in the Course Book then and arrive at each weekly gathering prepared to discuss the readings.

The Course Books are each 100 to 150 pages in length, contain excerpts of essays, articles and books by many well-known writers and scientists. The combination of literary and more fact-oriented readings creates a thought-provoking mix that often leads to lively discussion and sharing among group members. Questions designed to generate conversation are also provided for each session, though you are encouraged to develop your own queries.

For additional information or if you can't make the orientation but still want to participate contact Ed Spencer (303) 989-7851 – spenex@yahoo.com or visit [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org). ■

Eldorado Canyon, and above Moffat Tunnel. Activities include hiking, outdoor ice skating, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, outdoor community service, canoeing, and rafting.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors including the Sierra Club Foundation, the only real limit to the effectiveness of the ICO program is the number of trip leaders (our trips are usually run at no cost to the trip leaders or volunteers, with food provided for the kids).

We are probably the only group taking kids out around Denver that has backcountry snowshoe and telemark ski equipment for both kids and adults (stored in Golden). I'm leading an adult Sierra Club backcountry ski trip on February 1st, 2003, to try to recruit new leaders for backcountry ski trips ([aronow@indra.com](mailto:aronow@indra.com)). Contact [Melody\\_Cheung@jdedwards.com](mailto:Melody_Cheung@jdedwards.com) if you're interested in volunteering in ICO. You can find our latest newsletter on the Rocky Mountain Chapter's website under "Outings" then "Inner City Outings." Don't keep the secret. ■

## Inner City Outings

### The Chapter's Best Kept Secret (Until Now)

Kurt Aronow, RMC ICO Chair

The Inner City Outings program takes lower-income kids on trips into the woods and tries to inspire passion and knowledge for the natural world. If you want to teach kids about what inspires you in the great outdoors, this is a great venue. When we had our annual training last February, several people remarked that ICO is the Chapter's best-kept secret. Don't keep the secret.

The kids get signed up through counselors and teachers in institutions such as Denver Housing Authority, Manual High School, Angelvine Middle School, and College View Elementary. The trip destinations and methods are similar to adult trips (depending on the leader): Indian Peaks,

# SIERRA SPOTLIGHT

## Featured Volunteer

by Caitlin Jenney, *Peak & Prairie Features Editor*

### Jennie Crystle

*SC: Where are you from originally and did you grow up in an environmentally-conscious home?*

I am from Pennsylvania and grew up in a somewhat environmentally-conscious home. We lived near Three Mile Island and the near nuclear meltdown really made my family and the community aware of the importance of good energy policy.

*SC: How did you get involved with the Sierra Club? Have you always had strong feelings about saving the environment?*

I originally became involved with the Sierra Club through hiking and outings on the East Coast during college. The more time I spent backpacking and hiking, the more concerned I became about preservation and conservation issues.

*SC: Have you always had a passion for politics?*

No, I can't say that I have ever had a passion for politics. I decided to become involved as much as possible because this is a critical time for many of the conservation issues I really care about in our state. Frankly, politics are frustrating and complex. However, I do really believe that campaign finance reform, both on the federal and state level, will and can make a difference in how democracy works. This is a critical election cycle in supporting the goal of better government, as well as better candidates equal better politics. When George Bush, Jr. was selected as our president, I choose to stop wishing the system would just get better and started doing something

about the current state of politics. I feel that helping pro-environment candidates from all parties get elected to state and federal offices as well as getting big money out of politics are just two things that I can do, we all could do, to improve our government as well as Colorado in general.

*SC: How are you currently involved in the political world?*

I am volunteering for pro-environment candidates in the Pikes Peak region, Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, and I'm supporting Amendment 27, campaign finance reform for Colorado.

*SC: What is your current title within the Sierra Club? What does your job entail?*

I am the chair of the Pikes Peak Group's Political Committee and I'm a member of the Chapter Political Committee. I am also assisting in the endorsement process for state offices for the Sierra Club and I'm volunteering for campaigns as much as possible.

*SC: Susan says you are expecting your first child—CONGRATULATIONS! What do you think your child's environment will be like 20 years from now?*

If we can elect a **pro-environment legislature** in Colorado, I think and hope that my child's environment will include comprehensive state-wide recycling facilities, power generated by **renewable** energy resources as much as possible, light rail from Fort Collins to Pueblo (with a little help from the federal government), as well as reasonable growth management.

*This future is possible because of passionate people like Jennie. ■*



Jennie Crystle

## New Layout Editor



Hi, my name is Tom DeMoulin and I admit it... I haven't been a very good Sierra Club member lately. I've let those renewal appeals sit around on my kitchen table and have stayed home watching T.V. while the Bush administration has been busy. So when I heard the Sierra Club was looking for a layout editor, I jumped at the opportunity.

I've worked in the field of graphic design for more than a decade and I love the process of visual communication. I imagine that you read this paper to find out about successes gained and the new challenges this organization faces. It's my job to ensure the newsletter's form enhances this function, rather than getting in its way. My predecessor, Sandy Nervig, has done a great job addressing this and it's my hope to continue the standard she set.

*P.S. In case you were wondering, I did update my membership through Sierra Club's web site. It was painless. ■*



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

**Dear Recycle Lady:** Can you tell me about environmentally friendly alternatives to dry cleaning?

—*Hanging on the Line*

**Dear Hanging:** How we care for our clothing is an important lifestyle issue. Let's start with clothing selection. First, look for natural fibers, such as cotton, hemp, wool, silk and even Tencel®, which is made from cellulose. Garments made from these materials are often machine or hand washable. To find products made from natural and organic fabrics, try searching consumer directory web sites such as the National Green Pages ([www.greenpages.org](http://www.greenpages.org)) and EcoMall ([www.ecomall.com](http://www.ecomall.com)).

Next, look at how you care for your fabrics. Horizontal axis washing machines typically use less water, energy, and detergents than standard vertical axis washers, while getting clothes cleaner more gently. Examine your cleaning products. Several companies (Seventh Generation, Ecover, and Forever New) offer fabric cleaning products that work well and are gentle on both your textiles and the environment. You can find them at natural foods stores, lingerie stores, and web sites like Gaiam ([www.gaiam.com](http://www.gaiam.com)) and Green Marketplace ([www.greenmarketplace.com](http://www.greenmarketplace.com)). Also, look for laundry capsules and papaya enzyme; the reusable capsules ionize water and reduce the need for cleaning products.

Some combinations of washing machines and cleaning products allow you to clean "dry clean only" garments at home. However, for items that you do not want to chance cleaning yourself, try this option: wet cleaning, a gentle, environmentally safe soap and water technique that works on virtually any fabric. Several dry cleaners such as Paradise (Front Range), Avenue (Denver) and Papa Joe's (Walsenburg) offer this alternative. Also, Cleaner by Nature (Greenwood Village) offers a dry cleaning service that uses an environmentally safe process that typically costs less than standard dry cleaning.



## Ask the Recycle Lady

**Dear Recycle Lady:** Can you recommend any sources for recycled wrapping paper?

—*Wrapping it Up*

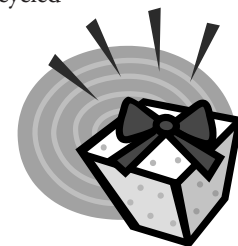
**Dear Wrapping:** Your question is perfectly timed as the holidays approach. Here are several options to consider when you want to show your gratitude. Start with gifts that require no wrapping or container. Gifts of your time, e.g., babysitting your sister's kids once a month, are priceless and easy to give.

If your gift has a more solid form, consider a gift bag. Beautiful fabric and paper bags are available in a variety of sizes and can be reused by you or the recipient. Check the directories above for sources or make your own.

You can also take the reuse approach. Brown paper bags, old maps, newspapers, and other materials can make for a fun, personal approach when dressed up by cutting animal or other shapes out of sponges or potatoes and stamping the shapes on the paper with craft paints. Of course, a variety of natural materials and scraps (leaves, flowers, old ribbons, or twigs) can add that creative, finishing touch. Use your imagination!

When you really want that retail wrapping paper look, check out the recycled papers at [BuyGiftPaper.com](http://BuyGiftPaper.com). Other retailers, such as those mentioned previously, may carry a small selection of recycled gift papers during the holidays.

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



# 10 Simple Things You Can Do for OCTOBER Energy Awareness Month

**(Our standards are higher for Sierra Club Members)**

The Chapter's 20/20 Energy Campaign is committed to helping Coloradoans receive 20% of their electricity from renewable (non-hydro) sources by 2020, and being 20% more efficient in electrical use in 2010 than they are today. Here are a few tips to get started:

- Switch out most of your incandescent light bulbs in your home and office to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Call in to a radio talk show and bring up an energy related issue — security, environmental benefits, cost,
- Get your City Council or County Commissioners to sign a resolution proclaiming October "Energy Awareness Month" and ask the local government staff to include energy efficiency information in its next correspondence to residents. You can receive an electronic copy of a resolution on the Sierra Club energy web page.
- Submit a letter to the editor of your local newspapers asking the public, elected officials, businesses, and utility companies to promote energy efficiency and electricity from renewable sources.
- Ask a political candidate how far she/he will go to support policies which promote renewable energy and efficiency.
- Take a tour of solar homes or a wind farm. Then, sign up with your utility company to receive your electricity from renewable sources.
- Hold a local public forum on energy issues. (You can invite a Sierra Club energy committee member to be one of the speakers).
- Do an energy audit of your home, office or work facility. One quick audit is available on line at: <http://hes.lbl.gov/>
- Eliminate 'phantom loads' on your electric bill. This is a term for devices such as VCR clocks, televisions, stereos, computers, and other appliances that draw electricity even when not in use. These can be completely turned off by plugging them in to a power strip and turning the strip off when not in use.
- Visit Sierra Club's energy campaign web site to learn more about energy issues in Colorado and to see more ideas on what you can do!

With renewable energy there's no limit to Colorado's power!

Provided by Janna Six, Sierra Club RMC Energy Campaign  
[www.rmc.sierraclub.org/energy/](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/energy/)

## Environmental Justice In-gathering

Kathy Glatz, RMC EJ chair

Sierra Club hosted its Third Annual Environmental Justice (EJ) Grassroots Organizing Program In-gathering August 23-25 in Chicago. Once again, it was inspiring to meet (and re-meet) Sierra Club volunteer and community organizers.

Folks in Detroit are fighting a municipal incinerator. Chemical plants continue to plague residents near New Orleans (one victory: the community we'd visited on last year's Toxic Tour has been bought out at market value by the polluter; unfortunately, the price has been loss of community as they re-locate to cleaner pastures). Memphis is fighting the Terrible Ten polluters, including a waste incinerator. Appalachians (especially West Virginians) battle coal mining companies, who are currently chopping off mountaintops to mine faster! Closer to home, Peabody Coal now wants to build a pipeline using pristine water from the aquifer to ship coal from to Nevada from Black Mesa Arizona. In addition, Flagstaff's SnowBowl is trying to make snow. These are only a few of the battles being fought by local residents with

support from Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program.

To review, the Sierra Club's Principles of Environmental Justice were adopted by the Board of Directors in Brownsville, TX., 2/15/01. The Guiding Principles for the Sierra Club's National EJ Grassroots Organizing Program have been developed by the EJ Committee to clarify SC's role in working with communities. Unlike many other SC programs, EJ volunteers are invited by communities to assist. Some communities find it more helpful to NOT use SC's name; that's ok. Communities do the organizing and goal-setting. If communities' goals parallel ours, and local SC groups decide they're interested, SC volunteers can call for EJ help.

Help from the National EJ Committee takes many forms. We currently do not use SC budget money available to fund another community organizer. However, we can access consultants among the legal and media teams. And there are mini-grants. This money has been used creatively by EJ volunteers to assist communities in educating the public about the issues. For exam-

ple, a grant in West Virginia was used to fund the "almost level, W. Va." campaign informing about mountaintop removals and the violation of Clean Air Act. In New York, educational literature discussed the PCB pollution of the Hudson River and New York City's insistence that folks should not eat fish caught there, thus defining in "culture, custom, and heritage" why people don't want to move and do want to continue eating fish. Toxic tours and trainings have been conducted in many municipalities. SC and community volunteers have been able to attend and conduct national workshops.

Now, I know RMC is facing some similar issues: incinerators proposed, lack of Superfund-ing for sites, air pollution....Please let me know how I can assist you to write a mini-EJ-grant. Remember: it's c-3\$, meaning it must be for education of the masses! Do also contact me if you want a copy of EJ Principles (printed in P&P in 2001), or believe there's enough interest among SC and community volunteers to conduct our own RMC EJ training.

Kathy Glatz, RMC EJ chair  
[kathy.glatz@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:kathy.glatz@rmc.sierraclub.org) 303-922-3425. ■

## Fuels & Beetles

Scott Hatfield, RMC Forest Chair

While the National Fire Plan and General Accounting Office mandate wildland urban interface defensible space, USFS is trying to justify massive interior forest commercial logging in the name of fuels reduction. Soon all timber sales will be done under this guise with the aim of exempting ALL environmental laws. While two House Bills would do this, the biggest threat is to eliminate debate on eliminating debate by attaching a rider in the Senate with the help of Feinstein (D-CA) and Wyden (D-OR). Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey wrote the Salvage Rider of 1995 while working as a logging industry lobbyist and runs USFS. Legislative debate combined with strong scientific evidence will most likely stop a more focused bill exempting environmental protections. Some destructive timber sales in Colorado that could be affected include bogus claims of 'forest health restoration' rather than getting out the cut as a purpose and need.

In Routt National Forest following an appeal by Colorado Wild, wildlife remand work was completed on the East Gore Analysis for 4.0 million board feet on 865 acres with 4.0 miles of road construction. This sale was previously halted by USFWS due to concerns with lynx denning and winter forage habitat fragmentation, concerns with snowmobile compaction introducing competing predators to lynx habitat, and concerns with livestock after harvest. The stated purpose and need claim to improve forest health, thin overstocked stands, and prevent infestations from insects and mistletoe. This area was previously logged and roaded, but lies adjacent

to Sarvis Creek Wilderness and is worthy of a noncommercial restoration priority.

Also mostly previously logged and roaded in Routt N.F., the Green Ridge Mountain Pine Beetle Analysis Scoping Report calls for 8178 acres of Timber Sale Treatment with 25.9 miles of road construction. However, they do propose a small percentage of the logging in the Troublesome Wilderness Study Area. Previous logging to suppress beetle infestations have not been shown to be effective elsewhere. Beetles have been shown to fly up to 35-40 miles. Commercial logging has been shown to increase fire risks more than beetle fuel accumulation. Salvage logging prevents nutrient recycling, removes standing dead, snags, and downs that are important to wildlife such as woodpeckers who eat beetles. Soil damage includes compaction, drying, vegetation removal, erosion, loss of hydrological infiltration and retention, and sterilization of microbial and fungal communities.

More beetle infestations are being used to justify commercial logging in two roadless areas in the Arapahoe National Recreation Area Forest Health EIS Scoping Report. This could easily be a part of the current trend of high profile attacks on lands adjacent to the National Parks. As beetles create openings, aspen have the opportunity to regenerate. Beetles are a timeless part of these ecosystems. There is a need to do defensible space thinning mostly on private land for a subdivision adjacent to one of the roadless areas.

For more web info check out sites for Colorado Wild, Western Fire Ecology Center, Forest Conservation Council, National Forest Protection Alliance, and Sierra Club. ■

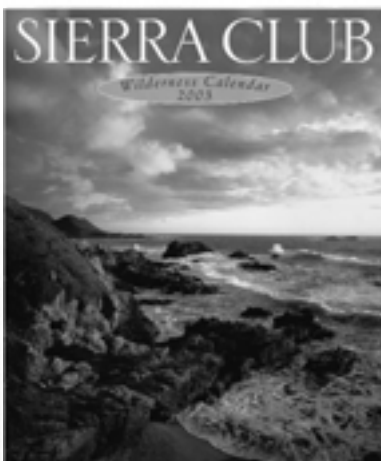


## NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED FOR SIERRA CLUB AWARDS

Have you noticed an award-worthy Sierra Club volunteer or entire Sierra Club Group, community leader, elected official, or business who's made a stellar environmental effort? Nominate that person/entity for a Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club Award. Send the nominee's name, contact information and brief description (also include your name and phone number) to [janna.six@sierraclub.org](mailto:janna.six@sierraclub.org), 970-493-5034. Deadline 11/8. Awards will be presented at the Chapter Winter Party on December 8, 2002.

# SIERRA CLUB 2003 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2003 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and 'wire-o' binding.



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Environmental 911 Program  
85 Second Street, 2nd Fl  
San Francisco, CA 94105

## Sierra Club to Fund Mexican Grassroots Environmental Projects

**FIGHTING POLLUTION AND IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

**El Paso, TX:** The Sierra Club announced today that it will fund environmental projects run by four Mexican grassroots organizations. The projects chosen to receive financial assistance are all designed to fight pollution and to improve the working and living conditions of border communities.

"Environmental degradation, caused by the explosive growth of the maquiladora industry, has reached alarming levels throughout the border region," said Jenny Martinez, Sierra Club Program Officer. "Dangerous chemicals have poisoned the air, land, and water that these communities rely on."

The grants, which range from \$10,000-\$25,000, are part of the Sierra Club's Beyond the Borders, Mexico project. A joint project of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation, Beyond the Borders, Mexico is designed to support and strengthen grassroots environmental and community groups in Mexico. The groups will use the money for activities ranging from fighting illegal dumping and garbage burning, to monitoring the levels of ocean and drinking water contamination, promoting recycling programs, or expanding

outreach to the community through environmental education campaigns.

The following groups received funding: Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos and GAVIOTA of Centro Reynosa, Tamaulipas; Grupo Ecologista "Gaviotas" Playas de Tijuana of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, and Centro de Investigación y Solidaridad Obrera of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.

"We consider a healthy environment to be a human right," said Omeheira López, Director of the Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. "With this grant, we'll be able to pursue legal and grassroots strategies to protect the environment and public health for the families and communities of the border region."

Mexican and Sierra Club border groups interested in applying for Beyond the Border, Mexico Project grants can find the application and grant guidelines by visiting the Sierra Club's bilingual web page (link to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/beyondtheborders/espanol/mexico/lineamientos.asp#application>.) ■

### Opinion: Trade Pacts • from page 7

insidious investor-state provisions—like those of NAFTA Chapter 11—into the new trade pacts emerging from FTAA and the WTO.

During the heated political struggle over enactment of TPA, concerns about its potentially adverse local and regional impacts were expressed by many organizations representing local and state governments. Those organizations include the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Towns and Townships, and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The new United States trade pacts are increasingly likely to undermine the freedom of local, regional, state, and federal agencies to exercise their sovereignty over the environment. Some notorious demonstrations of how this mechanism can operate have already been experienced under NAFTA. For example, as documented early this year in Bill Moyers's documentary "Trading Democracy," the State of California, after discovering that the gasoline additive MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) was polluting ground water, took steps to ban its continued use. In a claim pending before a NAFTA tribunal, Methanex, the Canadian corporation that manufactures MTBE, is asking the United States government to pay it some \$970 million in damages as compensation for potential profits lost as a consequence of California's ban.

Right here in Colorado the stage is set for a possible challenge to our sovereignty similar to the California experience with Methanex. Kirk Cunningham, RMC Conservation Chair, points out that Cementos de México (CEMEX), under a permit it received from the State of Colorado some ten years ago, is proposing to burn used tires and hazardous wastes in their cement plant located east of Lyons in Boulder County.

Should enforcement of current air quality regulations prevent CEMEX from implementing its proposal, the company could use NAFTA provisions to justify a claim against the United States for alleged damages resulting from its compliance with environmental regulations. Similarly, new U.S. trade pacts could enable foreign companies to challenge local and regional regulations in the areas of labor, land use, zoning, dumping of wastes, public health and safety, the environment, and preferences for local businesses.

To the extent that foreign investors achieve success in trade tribunals, U.S. taxpayers will, in effect, be encouraging and indemnifying these challengers. We will essentially be making payoffs to corporate interests for the "luxury" of protecting our domestic sovereignty, be it federal, state, local, or regional. Thus, what corporations

have so far been unable to achieve through domestic "takings legislation" and U.S. courts, they will have accomplished as a consequence of influencing our leaders to negotiate binational and multinational trade agreements that are flagrantly inequitable and unfair.

So what can we, as citizens and Sierrans, do to reassert U.S. sovereignty over our environment? We can continue, in accordance with the national position of the Sierra Club on trade issues, to demand that our senators and representatives in Congress exercise their constitutional responsibility to regulate foreign commerce. We must become vigilant in scrutinizing what is happening in the name of proliferating so-called free trade, and insist that an emphasis be placed on adopting fair trade principles and provisions.

"Fair trade" means that trade agreements are openly and democratically formulated on the basis of inputs from all stakeholders—rather than inputs that come almost entirely from vested corporate interests. In particular, it means negotiating trade agreements whose provisions reflect appropriate concern for human rights and environmental protection. However, the recent passage of TPA legislation, known as HR 3009, the Trade Act of 2002, complicates public and congressional oversight, since it allows trade negotiations to largely be conducted behind the scenes, preventing the achievement of a level trading field.

During the five- or seven-year duration of the Trade Act of 2002, the public interest has essentially two remedies available: 1) for Congress to examine and vote down in their entirety, rather than amend them, any unacceptable trade agreements that are negotiated by the Administration, and 2) to successfully challenge the constitutionality of HR 3009. In my opinion, the Trade Act of 2002 is unconstitutional because, although the 107th Congress is at liberty to abdicate its own constitutional authority to regulate foreign commerce, it should not be at liberty to deprive the 108th, 109th, and probably the 110th Congress of that authority.

Please join our ITI committee. You can contact me at [r.cohen@ieee.org](mailto:r.cohen@ieee.org) or (303) 443-4884. ■

### Wildlife Management • from page 6

admitting that he asked only "a few specific people to come," while claiming at the same time that "everything we do is public."

Such agency doublespeak has become commonplace. At the Legislature earlier this year, Director George and the DOW's Legislative Liaison repeatedly claimed the Division and Commission were neutral on a controversial bill allowing the DOW to hire private citizens to help kill problem black bears out of season even as they went on record supporting "any bill" that increases the DOW's "management flexibility." Their doublespeak was revealed however, when the Senate Ag Committee Chair told the press that Director George had personally thanked him for his efforts for the bill, and the House sponsor told another Committee that he had actually been asked by several members of the Wildlife Commission to sponsor the bill.

At a recent meeting with the environmental community, DOW Director George and Wildlife Commission Chair Enstrom repeatedly stonewalled when asked for their views on an internal DOW document that summarized the highly critical comments from hunters, anglers, and environmentalists on the lack of an equitable public process. Just prior to that meeting, Director George told the DOW employee who authored the document that he hadn't bothered to read it.

Our wildlife management system in Colorado is now severely dysfunctional. The Governor and his appointees continue to subvert that system, thumbing their noses at the large majority of Coloradoans who care about our wildlife and stonewalling when asked to make changes to ensure an equitable public process that allows the general public (and the environmental community) a place at the table. Instead, the current decision-makers play by special-interest rules, making a sham of public process and bowing to the demands of developers, ranchers, and others who regard wildlife as an inconvenience to be swept aside in pursuit of the almighty dollar. Any meaningful change to this dysfunctional system must either await a new administration or be changed through ballot initiatives led by caring citizens for whom wildlife is too important to be abandoned to the special interests.

The question is: how long can we in good conscience allow our wildlife to wait?


Mike Smith is RMC Wildlife Chair and was recently appointed to chair the Club's National Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee. He can be reached at [mike.smith@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:mike.smith@rmc.sierraclub.org). ■

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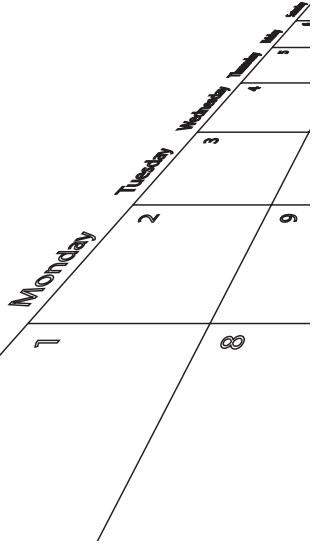
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Led by Cy Englert, Sierra Club Outings Leader, MA student Environmental Leadership, Naropa University

# C A L E N D A R



## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

for  
Dec 2002/Jan 2003 issue  
Monday, **October 28, 2002**

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

Late submissions may be included in the online Rocky Mountain Chapter Calendar. Send info. as an attached document to [outings@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:outings@rmc.sierraclub.org).

Please check the web site – [www.rmc.sierraclub.org](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org) and then click on Calendar (left menu bar) – for a complete and up-to-date listing of outings.

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

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

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

## OUTINGS

• Please RSVP ALL Outings •

**October 4, 5:30 pm**  
Happy Hour at Sunbird Restaurant.  
Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.  
Sunbird is at 230 Point of the Pines Dr.

**October 12, 8:30 am – 3 pm.**  
Easy—Rampart Range Reservoir Hike  
12 mile hike.  
Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996 by 10/11.

**October 19, 8:00 a.m.**  
Moderate—Lewis Creek Hike  
Hike tops out at 10,000 ft.  
Mary Furman at 719-579-8525. (no calls after 9 p.m.)

**October 20, 8:30 am – 2 pm.**  
Pancake Rocks Hike  
Moderate—6 mile/1400 ft elevation gain.  
Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996 by 10/19.

**November 3, 9 a.m.**  
Moderate—Preacher's Hollow Loop Hike  
(5 mi.). Mueller State Park/\$5 entrance fee.  
Mary Furman at 719-579-8525.

**November 8, 5:30 pm – 7 pm.**  
Happy Hour at Sunbird  
230 Point of the Pines Dr.  
Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.

**November 9, 8:30 am – 1 pm.**  
Easy—Fountain Creek Hike.  
RSVP to Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996 by November 8th.

**November 10, 8 a.m.**  
Moderate—Dome Rock Hike. (10 mi.)  
Elevation gain. \$5 State Park Ent. Fee.  
Mary Furman at 719-579-8525.

**November 16, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
Leader Training hike. Requirement to become Outings Leaders.  
John Stansfield, 303-660-5849.

**INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO)**  
Angelvine Middle School (Lafayette) trips...

**Kurt Aronow** ([aronow@indra.com](mailto:aronow@indra.com))  
720-890-8597;  
**Ford Church** ([fchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:fchurch@hotmail.com))  
303-444-2659

**October 5, 2002**  
Hiking in the Indian Peaks (Ford)

**November 2, 2002**  
Hiking at Golden Gate Canyon State Park (Ford)

**December 7, 2002**  
Hiking in Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park or Eldorado Canyon (Kurt)

**January 11, 2002**  
Snoeshoeing in the Indian Peaks (Ford)

**SUMMIT COUNTY GROUP OUTINGS**  
**Larry Griffin**, 303/771-1146

**Oct 5** – Coral Creek hike  
**Nov 9** – Boulder Lake hike  
**Dec. 7** – Mohawk Lake snowshoe

## EVENTS

**October 19, 8 am – 12 pm.**  
Adult CPR  
American Red Cross  
444 Sherman St.  
Drew at 303-894-8052 or  
[KelticJourney@msn.com](mailto:KelticJourney@msn.com)

**Oct 19, 12:30 pm – 6 pm**  
Adult CPR/First Aid.  
American Red Cross  
444 Sherman St.  
Drew at 303-894-8052 or  
[KelticJourney@msn.com](mailto:KelticJourney@msn.com)

**Nov 2 and Nov 9, 9 am – 6 pm**  
Wilderness First Aid  
(2 sessions of 1 class).  
American Red Cross  
444 Sherman St.  
Drew, 303-894-8052, or  
[KelticJourney@msn.com](mailto:KelticJourney@msn.com)

**October 10th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**  
Auction Volunteers Training.  
RSVP Libby Tart, 303-861-8819 or  
[libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org) before the 10th.

**October 19th, 5 – 10 p.m.**  
Sierra Club's 3rd Annual "Wild Places, Open Spaces" Live and Silent Auction. Gourmet dinner. Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. Sierra Club President Jennifer Ferenstein is the Special Guest. Tickets are \$60/person and can be purchased through the office (303-861-8819) or by the RMC homepage: [www.rmc.sierraclub.org](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org).

**October 28th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
Brewing Ideas: Ideas for Strengthening Our Club. Red Room on E. Colfax.  
RSVP by the 28th to Libby, 303-861-8819 or [libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org).

**November 13, 6 – 8:00 p.m.**  
Sierra Club Book Discussion Group.  
Read Eating in the Dark, by Kathleen Hart. Potluck. RSVP by Nov 12. 303-861-8819 or [libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org).

**Nov 18, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Brewing Ideas:**  
Ideas for Strengthening Our Club. Falling Rock Taphouse, 1919 Blake Street, Denver. RSVP to 303-861-8819 or [libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org).

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

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

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., EMS Store, 870 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver. Support the Chapter's 20% by 2020 Renewable Energy Campaign. Tabling, developing fact sheets, and organizing educational events. Cindy Johnson, [cynthia.johnson@cvg-grp.com](mailto:cynthia.johnson@cvg-grp.com), or [greg.casini@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:greg.casini@rmc.sierraclub.org).

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

**GENETIC ENGINEERING COMMITTEE**  
Oct 30, 7:00 pm & Nov 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Chapter office.  
Suzanne Wuerthele (303) 333-2519,  
[wuerthel@ecentral.com](mailto:wuerthel@ecentral.com)

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

**LIFESTYLES EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
Oct 21 and Nov 21. 6:30pm.  
Chapter office  
[JoLynn Jarboe jolynn11@juno.com](mailto:JoLynnJarboe@juno.com)

**OUTINGS COMMITTEE**  
Help our statewide outings program grow. This will be a **statewide committee**. Call Patricia at 303-691-8852 or email [outings@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:outings@rmc.sierraclub.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GROUP MEETINGS

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

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

**HIGH PLAINS GROUP**  
(Eastern Denver Suburbs)

• **General meeting**  
Second Thursdays, 7pm, location TBA. Sandy Nervig, 303-680-4635 or [sandy.nervig@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.nervig@rmc.sierraclub.org) for info.

**INDIAN PEAKS GROUP**  
(Boulder County)

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

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

• **Energy Work Group New Group!**  
Jason Berv (location, time, and meeting agenda) 720-565-8185 [jberv1@aol.com](mailto:jberv1@aol.com)

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

• **Sprawl & Transportation Com. New Committee!**  
Tuesdays, 7pm  
Sonya Guram (location, time and meeting agenda) 303-245-9115 or [sonya.guram@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:sonya.guram@rmc.sierraclub.org).

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

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

**PIKES PEAK GROUP**  
(El Paso & Teller Counties)

• **General meeting**  
Second Tuesday evenings.

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

**POUDRE CANYON GROUP**  
(Larimer & Weld Counties)

• **Ex-Com meetings**



Second Mondays, 6:30pm. Poudre Fire Authority Conf. Rm, 102 Remington St., Fort Collins.  
Janna Six, 970-493-5034.

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

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

**SANGRE DE CRISTO GROUP**  
(Arkansas River & San Louis Valley)

• **TBA – Legacy Series**  
Featuring prominent individuals in the environmental movement. Jim Trujillo at 719-948-4129.

**SOUTH PLATTE GROUP**  
(Arapahoe, Douglas & Jefferson Counties)

Fourth Thurs. 6:30 – 8:30pm. Bemis Library, Littleton, study rm – look for Sierra Club sign. Charlie Oriez 303-798-3236, [charlie.oriez@rmc.sierraclub.org](mailto:charlie.oriez@rmc.sierraclub.org).  
For activities: [www.rmc.sierraclub.org/spg/](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/spg/).

**TRAPPERS LAKE GROUP**  
(Routt, Moffat, Jackson and Rio Blanco)

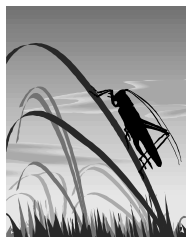
• **General meeting**  
2nd Monday each month, 12 pm.  
Centennial Hall, 10th and Lincoln.  
For info., Jane 970-8779-5760.

**UNCOMPAHGRE GROUP**  
(Mesa, Delta & Gunnison Counties)

• **General meeting**  
Call Shelly at 970-243-5138 for info.

**WEMINUCHE GROUP**  
(Durango and surrounding counties)

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



## Sweet Grass

by Lynn Fogarty  
(AKA Lorraine G. Michaels)

*The wind carries what sounds like a growl,  
Then it evolves to a whimper, a howl.  
A scent of sweet grass is in the warm air,  
Are these the signs of peace or despair?*

*She snorts and roots looking for food,  
Grubs and berries improve her mood.  
It's simple for her, this big brown bear,  
She does not know this word despair.*

### Humpback Whales • from page 10

I was left in a state of rapture; the powerful emotion I felt from this encounter would last for days and weeks afterward.

Humpback whales frequent the waters in various parts of the world and simply to catch a glimpse of these awesome leviathans is thrilling. But there are 2 destinations in the world where there is the potential for a non-invasive, in-water encounter with humpback whales.

The Silver Banks, 90 miles off the coast of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, is the largest calving and breeding grounds for humpbacks in the world. December through March finds them in these waters. A private charter, small live-aboard boat takes a handful of people to the banks to spend time with the whales. The boat works in cooperation with the Dominican Republic whale commission and the whale encounters are closely monitored. By allowing people this incredible experience with the whales and raising public awareness, they hope to educate and motivate people to support whale conservation and help protect this endangered species from on-going whaling.

Another migratory destination is due north and east of New Zealand in the Kingdom of Tonga. The northern-most group of islands, Vava'u, seems to be the spot where most of the whales congregate to calve and breed. Here there are opportunities for soft in-water encounters with the whales, facilitated by marine biologists.

I must stress that nothing is done to interfere with the whale's normal behavior or comfort level. The whales display incredible above water acrobatics, breaching, tail slapping, fin slapping and spy hopping. Any in-water encounters are only possible if the whales initiate it. Individual whales clearly demonstrate that they are as eager for contact with us as we are with them, it is an experience of the heart and one that might prove to be the encounter of a lifetime!

*Gayle Lawrence will once again be returning to the Silver Banks Feb. 1 – 8, 2003 for humpback whale encounters. She will also be making a trip to the South Pacific, Tongan Islands for humpback whale encounters and a 10-day tour in Sept. 2003. If you're interested in more information about either of these trips you may contact Gayle at: H: 727-785-5563 or email: [whalesongs@earthlink.net](mailto:whalesongs@earthlink.net). ■*

## Preserve The Future.

**N**ot 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](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

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

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (day & evening) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Educational Background \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Bookkeeping–Budget/Finance            | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchandise Sales                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters–Chapter/Group               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Outings/Outdoor Service Projects        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Program Development            |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> International & Trade Issues                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources–prof. & experts         |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Volunteer Welcome Wagon               | <input type="checkbox"/> Write letters to legislators/newspapers |

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

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

Thanks so much for participating!

October/November 2002

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Holiday Party & Volunteer Awards Ceremony**  
Sunday, December 8, 3 p.m. — 7 p.m.

1st Unitarian Church  
14th & Lafayette, in Capitol Hill, Denver  
Suggested donation \$5  
Dinner and drinks provided

**3rd Annual Chapter Auction**  
Saturday, October 19, 5 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Brown Palace Hotel, Denver

To volunteer, call Libby 303-861-8819.



Top: Surfacing humpback amazes onlookers.



Right: Swimming with the fishes. (Okay, it's a whale!)

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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.*



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FOUNDED 1892

**Sierra Club**

Rocky Mountain Chapter  
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