

AN EVENING WITH JOHN FIELDER

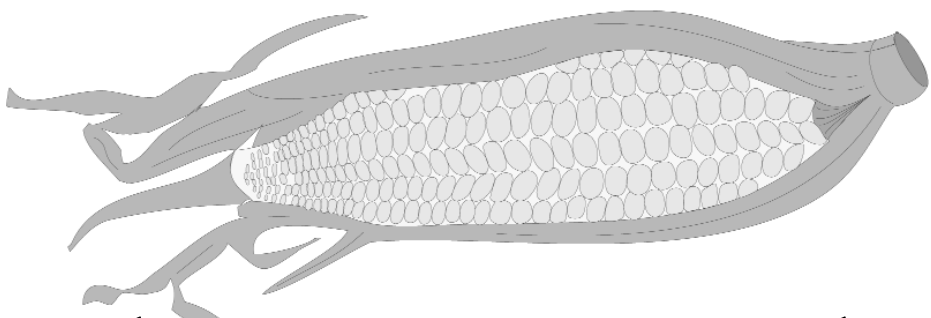
Join the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club in welcoming one of our favorite photographers, John Fielder, to a special fundraising event just for us! John is an acclaimed photographer of several books, including *Colorado: 1870-2000*, *Along the Colorado Trail*, *Colorado's Canyon Country: A Guide to Hiking and Floating BLM Wildlands*, and his most recent work, *John Fielder's Best of Colorado*. Our Tuesday night event will incorporate slides and commentary from John on his *Best of Colorado* publication. John's books will be on sale after

the event and he will be on hand to autograph them too so do not forget to bring your check-book!

This special event is taking place on Tuesday night, April 29th at 7 p.m. over at Cameron United Methodist Church in Washington Park. The church is located at 1600 S. Pearl Street. Parking is available in the church lot and off-street. Tickets will be sold at the door. They will be priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.



— Photo by John Fielder



Pharmacrops Coming to Colorado

by Susanne Wuerthele, Genetic Engineering Committee Chair

In February, the Colorado Department of Agriculture held public meetings in Montrose and Akron, to “gauge public reaction” to growing “pharmacrops”—plants like corn and soybeans that are genetically engineered to make drugs like hepatitis vaccine and contraceptives—in Colorado. Right out in the open, where children and wildlife can walk into the fields. Where drug-containing pollen can blow in the wind, contaminating soil and irrigation water. And pharmacrops can pollinate fields of corn meant for our dinner tables. The Department of Agriculture said they expect to see applications to grow pharmacrops here in time for the 2004 growing season.

Amazingly, the Colorado Technical Alliance, an agency created 15 months ago by Governor Owens to further the biotech industry, thinks this is a good idea. Terry Huffine, president of the Alliance says: “A lot of people are saying Colorado is a perfect fit for this.” And, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) thinks moving pharmacrops to Colorado is a good idea too. That's because last Fall, biotech company ProdiGene contaminated 500,000 bushels of Nebraska soybeans with a drug-corn filled with a vaccine against diarrhea in pigs. And, 125 acres of Iowa food corn had to be destroyed after it was pollinated by another stand of the same crop, again made by ProdiGene. They hope such contami-

nation won't happen here.

USDA bragged about how “the system works” because it got lucky and caught the mistakes, and slapped ProdiGene with a \$250,000 fine. But we learned this week that secretly, USDA gave ProdiGene a no-interest loan so they could pay off the fine! Of course, if ProdiGene goes out of business, taxpayers will be stuck with the bill. Clearly both the biotech industry and their regulators are out of control.

Now USDA is proposing to “strengthen” its field trial requirements. You can read the proposed “stronger” requirements, which still allow pharmacrops to be planted out-of-doors, and in food crops, at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>

Tell USDA this is a really bad idea! Drugs don't belong in our food! Pharmacrops will contaminate Colorado produce, soil, water and air. They will injure wildlife, and expose anyone who breathes their pollen, including the farmers who grow them, to powerful drugs.

Send your comments to: Docket No. 03-031-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Be sure to state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-031-1.

Genetic Engineering Conference



Participants in the Rocky Mountain Chapter Genetic Engineering Committee listen to a presentation by Ship Spitzer from the Pesticide Action Network of North America.

Ten Reasons Things Aren't as Bad as They Seem

1. Americans support environmental values. By a two-to-one margin, a New York Times/CBS News poll (November 29, 2002) found that Americans say that protecting the environment is more important than producing energy.
2. Campaign finance reform kicked in on November 6. When the polls closed at midnight on November 5, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which will prevent polluting industries from dumping unlimited “soft money” into electoral campaigns, went into effect. The law, which passed in March, is a critical first step toward giving power back to voters.
3. Demand for hybrid cars soars. Toyota has already sold more than 100,000 Priuses, and a recent auto industry survey found that 60 percent of consumers were considering hybrids for their next car.
4. Wind energy is becoming economically competitive with coal. According to Stanford University energy experts Mark Z. Jacobson and Gilbert M. Masters (Science, August 24, 2001), “The direct cost of energy from large wind turbines has dropped to 3 to 4 cents per kilowatt-hour, comparable with that from new pulverized-coal power plants. Given that health and environmental costs of coal are another 2 to 4.3 cents per kilowatt-hour, wind energy is unequivocally less expensive than is coal energy.”
5. BP backs off from Arctic. In November, the largest oil producer in Alaska, BP, withdrew from Arctic Power, a lobbying group dedicated to oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Greg Casini
RMC Chair

Sierra Club Joins FasTracks Campaign

Colorado is at a critical juncture where we must choose between two alternative futures: one where the state continues to experience out of control growth and traffic or one where the long-term visions that citizens have for their communities are realized through the implementation of thoughtful transportation and growth management policies.

Projections show that Colorado will increase its population by more than one third over the next 20 years. About half of the population growth in the state has occurred and will continue to occur in the Denver region. Low density sprawl is consuming the region's open lands at a rate that will double the amount of developed land by 2025, and roads are being built in fringe areas rather than utilizing more efficient land use patterns, urban centers, and transit corridors. As a result, traffic is rising at twice the rate of population growth — lengthening commute times and increasing air pollution.

However, Coloradans have a unique opportunity in 2003 to begin addressing these problems by establishing a long-term funding source to achieve the largest transit system in the country since the construction of the Washington, D.C. metro system. This buildout project, called "FasTracks," would reap enormous benefits in the Denver metro area by reducing traffic congestion and associated air pollution, promoting livable, transit-oriented communities, and guiding new development towards the existing metro area rather than sprawling out into rural landscapes.

The Sierra Club is joining the Colorado Campaign for Transportation Choices, a joint project with the Colorado Public Interest Research Foundation, Colorado Environmental Coalition and Center for Regional and Neighborhood Action. We will facilitate the achievement of the FasTracks vision through a public outreach and coalition building effort that will educate the public about the benefits of transit and create a diverse alliance of interests dedicated to bringing more transit to the metro region.

Sierra Club members and volunteers will play a key role in identifying community leaders to join in efforts to increase and improve our transit systems. We will also assist other organizations in the distribution of materials, attendance at educational events, and other activities to educate citizens.

Because of the Sierra Club's large membership base and history of local activism, we can provide both professional experience and volunteer "foot-soldiers" for these efforts. To learn more about FasTracks, or to become active in the Campaign for Transportation Choices, contact Susan LeFever at slefever@vanion.com or 303-861-2844.

What's going on in the RMC office



Susan LeFever
Chapter Director

During the Spring and Summer, more people get outside to enjoy the beauty of Colorado. So too does the Chapter Office. During the Spring and Summer months, you will often find us at outdoor events talking about renewable energy and transportation choices.

This year, we are planning to participate in the Earth Day at Chatfield Reservoir, the Race to Stop Global Warming, the People's Fair, and the Boulder Creek Festival. What a fun time to meet people, get outdoors, and talk about our important issues! If you would like to volunteer for a two-hour shift, call Libby at 303-861-8819 or email Libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

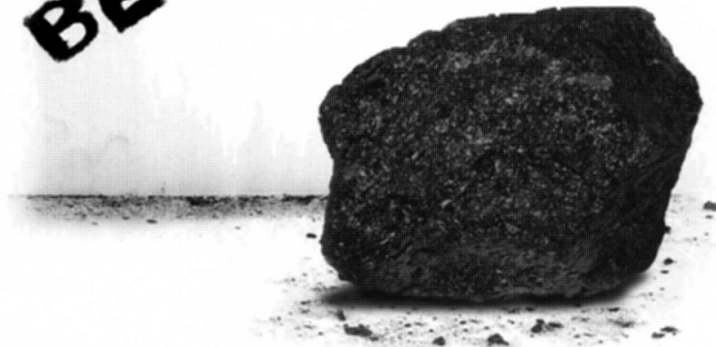
We're also working to build up our Transportation Committee to support the work of the Chapter's new Transportation Organizer. Our first meeting was March 27 in between Denver and Boulder at the Westminster Library. If you would like to help promote transit, we'd sure like you to join us! Send me an e-mail at susan.lefever@rmc.sierraclub.org. Be a Part of Our Chapter's Success.

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

- Newsletter Editor
- Finance Committee
- Volunteer Fair Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Auction Committee
- Staff Management Committee
- Outings Committee
- Energy Committee

For information, contact Libby Tart at 303-861-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org.

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From the Field...

Plan ahead for Forest Fire Season!

First let me say, it has been a pleasure working with all the Rocky Mountain Chapter members and I am grateful for the warm hospitality that folks have given me in

the past few months. I have enjoyed getting to know all the members Libby & I met during the Tour de Snow and look forward to continuing those relationships and starting new ones.

As summer approaches I have been reading a lot about the drought's impact on our forests and am doing everything I can to encourage our members to prepare their homes & communities for the upcoming fire season. Protecting communities and homes FIRST is the Sierra Club's number one priority this fire season. We are looking to educate members, activists and local communities about the importance of creating defensible space, how it is done and when you should do it. To show our commitment to these principles, the Club in conjunction with the Blue River Group, the Summit County Fire Mitigation Officer,



the State Forest Service and a local homeowners association will be conducting the following activities in May & June:

Distributing Forest fire protection literature to communities in Summit County door-to-door and at the Summit County Home & Garden Show. Supplying volunteers to Summit County to assist a local community with brush clearing around private homes to create defensible space.

Hosting a forum where panelists will trade views on forest fire policy.

Please stay tuned for more details and if you are interested in getting involved in Summit County please contact me at: deb.Robison@sierraclub.org, or 303-449-5595.

Save the Date!

Fourth Annual Auction on September 12th

Please join the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club as we conduct our Fourth Annual Wild Places, Open Spaces Auction on Friday, September 12th, 2003, at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. Join us for one of our most successful and marvelously FUN fundraisers of the year!

Sierra Club members and friends dine on a delicious gourmet meal and bid on items ranging from bed and breakfast getaways to snowshoes. Please be on the lookout for more information on the auction and ticket sales beginning in July.

Interested in obtaining tickets or in helping out with the Auction? Please call or write Libby Tart at 303-861-8819 or libby.tart@rmc.sierraclub.org and she can help you out.



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Spring & Summer Sierra Club Events!

Be on the lookout Front Range members – the Sierra Club is showing up at a BUNCH of fun spring and summer festivals. The Rocky Mountain Chapter would absolutely love to have a great presence at these events and therefore we are actively recruiting enthusiastic members to help us out with our tabling efforts. If you think you may not be properly equipped to volunteer for a festival, we can always: a) prepare you ahead of time by giving you the appropriate reading materials on the RMC, and/or b) put you in a shift with a more experienced volunteer.

So please bring sunscreen, bottled water, and Sierra Club t-shirts/buttons and come on out and help us! Here are the opportunities we have on our calendar:

Saturday, April 19th –
Earth Day! At Chatfield Nature Preserve in Littleton.
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22nd –
Earth Day Worship Service with Ecojustice Ministries, 7:00 p.m. at Christ

Congregational Church in Denver.

Tuesday, April 29th –
John Fielder Slide Show and Workshop, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. We need 10-15 volunteers to help take tickets, direct people to their seats, and help with book sales, etc. In the Wash. Park neighborhood of Denver.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 24th-26th –
Boulder Creek Festival. We'll be sunning ourselves all three days at this festival from 9 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Boulder

Saturday and Sunday, June 7th and 8th –
CHUN Capitol Hill People's Fair. We'll be having a great time, listening to local bands as we table from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Denver

Saturday, June 14th – Culturefest...Taste of Brighton. 11 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Brighton.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 15-17th –
Rocky Mountain Folks Festival. We'll be looking for all day volunteers for this weekend's tabling b/c we only get a few passes. ONLY look into this event if you are serious about tabling ALL DAY.

Any of these events sound interesting to you? Please call Libby Tart at the Rocky Mountain Chapter office to sign up for time slots, 303-861-8819, or give her a shout over email, libby.tart@rmc.sierra-club.org

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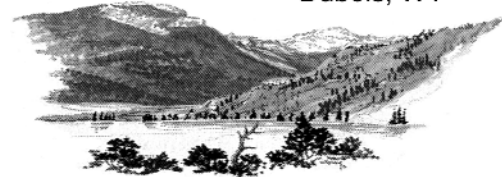
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2003 Summer Schedule

- Jun 29-Jul 11 Wilderness, Ecology and Spirituality**—Belden Lane, St. Louis University—An exploration of the role nature plays in the spiritual life of the Church, including theological responses to the environmental crisis, the role of animals and trees in the life of prayer and the ethical need for sustainable development.
- July 13-19 A Quaker Path to Simplicity**—Catherine Whitmire
Exploring the Quaker path to simplicity through worship sharing, reflection and discernment.
- July 20-26 Islamic & Western Cultures in Conflict—Hope for Reconciliation**—Greg Movesian, Canon Steward, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral Denver—Explore elements of Christian and Muslim faiths that can bring us together and the hostility that divides the Islamic and Western cultures
- Aug 3-15 A Contemporary Vision of Human Transformation**—Rod Hunter, Candler School of Theology, Emory University—Introduction to the understanding of human transformation articulated by biblical scholar Water Wink.
- Aug 17-23 Hymns as Constructive Theology**—Tom Troeger, Iliff School of Theology—Hymns have been written during times of theological and social turmoil. The seminar will trace the history of hymns, looking at what kinds of hymns our age needs. Participants will compose their own hymns.
- Aug 24-Sep 5 Jesus the Peasant and Christ the Lord**—Marcus & Marianne Borg—Conversations about Jesus—about the historical Jesus who is also, for Christians, "Lord," along with explorations of themes and texts from the New Testament.

For More Information: Call 307-455-2663
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Activism in the Snow: The Tour de Snow Wrap-Up

By Libby Tart, RMC Coordinator

Wow! It was really incredible trekking around the state and meeting so many wonderful people that are interested in Sierra Club's regional and statewide issues.

While Deb Robison (SW Associate Reg. Rep.) and I spent a great amount of time with local group members and the public, we wanted to provide you with the in-depth version of our travel diary:

Friday, January 24th –

Leaving for Colorado Springs. Deb and I met with the Trails and Open Space Coalition, Voters Network, and several TOPS members down in Colorado Springs before we joined over 25 activists for a refreshing Thai dinner at Little Bangkok in downtown Colorado Springs. Deb and I agreed that we must have been an overwhelming bunch to such a small restaurant, but the staff handled us so well! Many thanks to all for making our informational dinner such a success.

Saturday, January 25th –

Deb and I kicked off the snowshoe leg of our trip to Colorado Springs by having a posse of 15 take off to the Craigs for a little hike in the snow. We had a marvelous time maneuvering through the trees at the top, although everyone of us expressed some sadness about the state of the snow and the pine trees. Thanks to Jim Lockhart



for co-leading the snowshoe with me! Then Deb and I drove and drove our way to Montrose to stay overnight.

Sunday, January 26th –

Driving, driving, driving.....and finally arriving in Durango before our designated snowshoe time. A few wonderful people showed up and we took off to an area of town that was sincerely lacking in snow. Off came our snowshoes and we decided to make it into an enjoyable hike. Later on we joined a few others for a Mexican dinner at Gazpacho's in downtown Durango. Highlight: a personal tour of the Animas La Plata project provided by Weminuche Group Chair, John Zwierzycki (I don't get out to Durango often enough).

Monday, January 27th –

Off Day for us – relaxation – yeah!

Tuesday, January 28th – Driving, driving to Grand Junction....no snowshoe here but then again, we weren't expecting it. Hiking the Serpent's Trail in the Colorado National Monument was wonderful with our two carloads of people. Then we proceeded to eat Japanese food at a downtown Grand Junction establishment before heading off to bed.

Wednesday, January 29th –

Driving, driving to Vail..... where I proceeded to kick off my snowshoes immediately to hike up the Davos Trail. We had a wonderful time with the weather and learned more about issues relevant to this area. A lot of interest was expressed in starting up a subgroup of the Summit/Eagle/Grand folks here, so if you're reading this and you're from the Eagle County area, please contact me!

Thursday, January 30th –

Settled down and worked a great portion of this day in Vail. Attended a local activist meeting that night on the White River National Forest.

Friday, January 31st –

Driving, driving to Summit County.....where we proceed to entertain ourselves until our dinner with 10 activists from the area at the Dillon Dam Brewery.

Saturday, February 1st –

The last snowshoe hike and we had the most wonderful snow conditions thanks to Mother Nature from a couple of nights before! Sicknes ensued for me, but the others kept on snowshoeing and had an absolutely wonderful time.

continued on page 12

In Memory

Extraordinary Ecologist, Beatrice E. Willard, Ph.D.

The Sierra Club is saddened by the death of Bettie Willard who helped to organize the Rocky Mountain Chapter in 1965. One of the first women to work in the field of ecology, Bettie helped organize the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC), and was active with the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, and the Thorne Ecological Institute. She worked as a researcher for Rocky Mountain

National Park, and published books about the park's plants.

In an interview in 2001, Bill Coors gave credit to Willard and David Brower for convincing him to create a recyclable aluminum can by showing him the impact of tin cans littering the tundra.

According to Bert Melcher, "She had a unique talent for translating the esoteric and complex science of ecology into simply stated terms and principles that business people, engineers, non-scientists and school children could understand and use. We are all of us the beneficiaries of her efforts and successes. Bettie played a unique role in creating new processes for preserving environmental quality: she was a true national leader."

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BE A PART OF OUR CHAPTER'S SUCCESS

VOLUNTEER FAIR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Help to develop a new event in the late summer to let volunteers know about all our activities and how they can get involved. The committee will design, produce, and promote the event to new and experienced activists. Contact Greg Casini at 303-315-3309 or greg.casini@rmc.sierraclub.org.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Help to increase our resources by cultivating and educating major donors and by writing grant proposals. Build on your experience, or learn new skills while helping the Sierra Club. Contact Susan LeFever at 303-861-8819 or susan.lefever@sierraclub.org.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Improvements to Highway 36? Upgrades to Union Station? Allowing RTD to ask voters for money for transit improvements? A number of transportation issues are on the horizon for Colorado, and you can help the Sierra Club respond and activate our membership. Contact Susan LeFever at 303-861-8819 or susan.lefever@sierraclub.org.

JOIN THE OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Be a part of the growing RMC Outings Program. We need help expanding the outings program in the state and putting together outings that focus on specific conservation issues. Contact Gary Matthews at 303-449-8182 or outings@rmc.sierraclub.org.

Rocky Mountain Chapter Sierra Club Photo Contest

Have you achieved your 15 minutes of fame yet?
Here is your chance!

Send your best nature photos to:

Photo Contest
1410 Grant Street, B303
Denver, CO 80203

Each issue of the Peak & Prairie will feature the best photo submission.

Entry rules: You may send up to 5 of your best original shots at a time. You may enter as often as you like. Submissions should be prints no larger than 8 X 10. Include a description of the photo with your name, address and phone number. Include any pertinent technical information such as shutter speed, aperture, filters, etc. Submission grants SC-RMC the right to publish selected photos in print, electronic or other media including promotional or advertising use. By submitting photos you attest that the photos do not violate the rights of any third party and that you have any required permissions and releases. Photos will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. SC-RMC assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of photos. Winning photos will be selected by the editorial committee of the SC-RMC or a delegated representative.



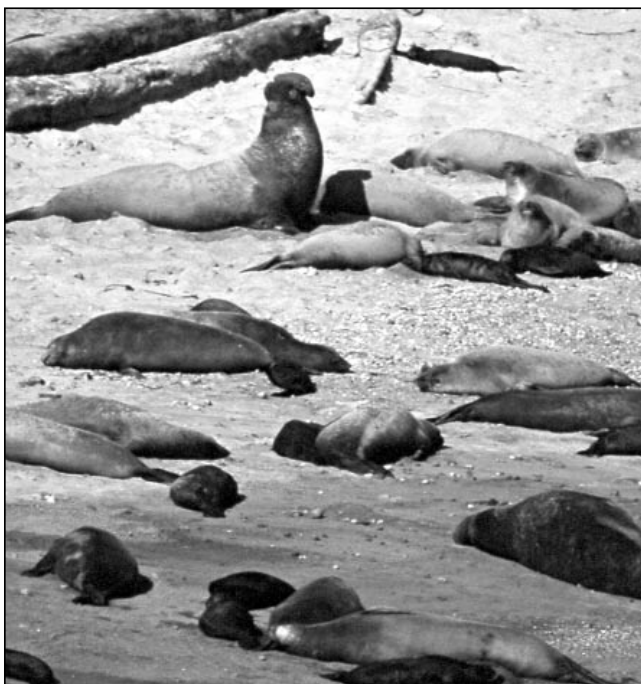
Congratulations go to James K. Holst of Pueblo West. James is the first winner in the Sierra Club-Rocky Mountain Chapter Photo Contest. James sent in this photo taken at Skagway, Alaska. Send in your favorite nature photos and you too can get some

More Pictures... ...Wildlife from Arizona and California

Two California Sea Lions push and shove each other at Pier 39 in San Francisco. They are part of a year round colony of several dozen that have taken over this pier on San Francisco Bay. As marine mammals, they are protected under Federal law and have become a major tourist attraction for wildlife enthusiasts.



- Photo by Mark Itkonen



Northern Elephant Seals resting at Pt. Reyes National Seashore north of San Francisco. This colony on Drake's Bay is a short hike from the road to the Lighthouse at Pt. Reyes. Even so, the males (bulls) can weigh in at 1,300 pounds (600 KG) and reach a length of over 12 feet (4,000 mm). Between the months of December and February, the seals come out of the water for to breed and give birthing. The males often arrive on the shore up aes and spend most of their time sleeping on the beach.



These bighorn sheep were part of a group of 11 spotted in January in Titus Canyon in Death Valley National Park. While bighorn are relatively common in Colorado's high mountains, park rangers said that they are spotted much less often in the Mojave Desert due to the extreme heat and lack of water.



This sad scene was captured in February on Highway 50 in Nevada.



These three collared peccaries were part of a family of five spotted near Copper Mountain in southeast Arizona. The collared peccary is the only wild, native, pig-like animal found in the United States. According to the Desert, USA web site, sightings of these animals, also known as javelina, or musk hog because of their scent, are quite rare. They are called Javelina because of their razor-sharp tusks, Spanish for javelin or spear. The prickly pear cactus is ideal food for the Collared Peccary because of its high moisture content. This photo was made using a 1000 mm lens.

OUT OF THE CITY

What is ICO?

Inner City Outings (ICO) is a community youth outreach program of the Sierra Club. Its volunteer certified leaders are trained in first aid, outdoor adventures and environmental education.

Most ICO trips are free of charge to participants, and most equipment is provided such as snowshoes or water bottles. Outings can include hiking, snowshoeing, ice skating, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, canoeing, rafting, bicycling and backpacking.

INTERVIEW WITH ICO STAFF

An Interview with Debra Asher, National Sierra Club ICO Staff
By Kathy Glatz

Kathy: Please give us a history of the Inner City Outings program.

Debra: ICO was established as a Sierra Club outreach program in 1976 in the San Francisco Bay Chapter. It grew out of the Sierra Club's attempts in the early 1970's to create the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the national parkland that surrounds the city.

Sierra Club volunteers were doing outreach to community groups to get support for the creation of this urban parkland, and in the process they realized how limited the access to hiking and exploring open spaces was to many people living here. A small group of volunteers decided that it was important to provide access to city dwellers, who, due to lack of income, awareness or skills, just didn't participate in Sierra Club or other outdoor activities.

A small group of volunteers with outdoor skills started doing hikes with youth from some community agencies. This activity eventually developed into an official "activity section" of the SF Bay Chapter and then became a national Sierra Club program (1976). A part-time staff person supported by grant monies came on board in the early 1980's, and eventually that position became full time. I started in this position as ICO Coordinator in 1988 when there were about 15 ICO groups. There are now 47 nationally.

Kathy: What keeps ICO

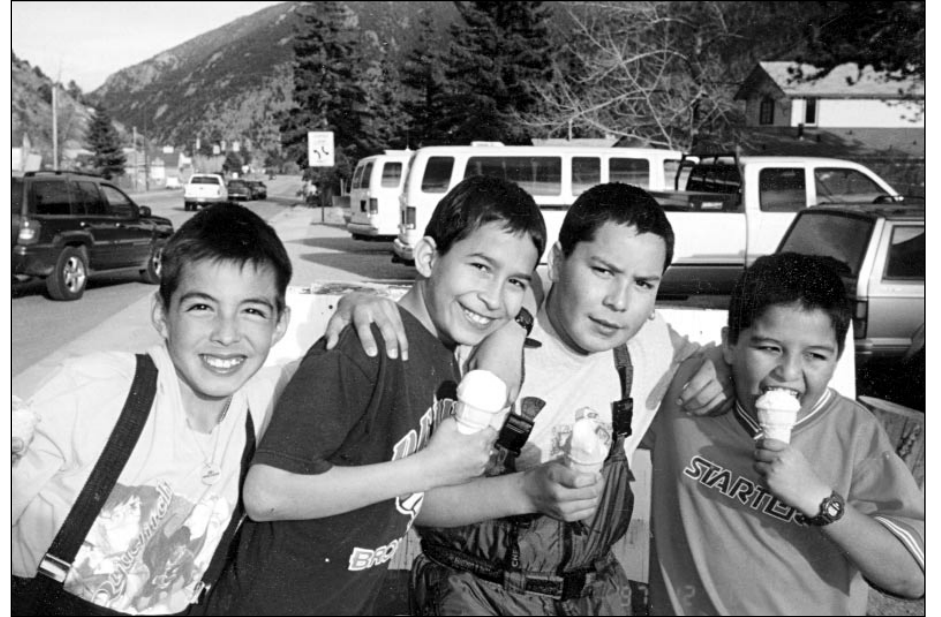
going financially?

Debra: What keeps ICO going are donations from individuals and foundations that are used to support staff and office expenses, insurance, & leader screening, in addition to the National Steering Committee's meetings, national conference travel, Intra-Regional Outings and the like.

Local ICO groups must raise their own funds to support their operating expenses. Sometimes we raise funds to distribute to the local groups, but generally, each ICO group is responsible for its own fundraising.

People who want to make tax-deductible donations to the local ICO can make a check out to The Sierra Club Foundation/Denver ICO. They will be deposited into your group's fund at The SC Foundation and the donors will be acknowledged by the Foundation. If the donors don't care about tax-deductibility, they may donate checks directly to you: Denver ICO, and deposit directly into your local checking account.

Kathy: Thanks, Debra! Yes, our local donations have allowed us to take kids hiking, camping, biking, canoeing, skiing, skating, and on other imaginative adventures for over 10 years now. We have received gift certificates to buy lunches and some gear. We have an agreement with a van rental company that lowers our transportation costs. We have negotiated a 10th Mountain Division Hut for spring break 2003 at half price. We just purchased x-c ski gear & helmets, which are stored in a donated renovated [by ICO volunteers] gear shed.



Report on the Sierra Club Swim Team

by Dan Ridgeway

Yes, that's right. The Sierra Club does have a swim team, of sorts. Last summer the Inner City Outings Group sponsored a group of 16 kids for two weeks of swim lessons.

What do swim lessons have to do with the Sierra Club's mission to "explore, protect, and enjoy" the natural world? Well, in order for children to do exploring and enjoying anywhere near lakes, streams and rivers, they ought to be able to swim. But, for a lot of inner city kids, swimming is just something they watch somebody else do on TV. Opportunities to learn are in such short supply that the local public recreation centers run a lottery for the few spots available.

Sierra Club ICO is not leaving our kids' safety to chance. This summer we hope to teach more kids for more weeks so that they acquire one of life's essential skills and are able to participate in ICO raft and canoe trips.

Here's where you come in. We need patrons! SAVE A KID'S LIFE and increase their self-confidence and self-esteem at the same time. For \$40 you can be a swim coach. We are especially looking for corporate and business support that will enable us to train a whole "school" of swimmers.

Please contact The Sierra Club Swim Team c/o Dan Ridgeway, 3090 S. Decatur St., Denver Co 8023, or phone (303)761-9502. A giant thanks to the sponsors of last year's pilot project: Denis and Julika Bond, Betty Cannon (in memory of Martin Cannon), Claudia Elsner, and The Terrace Club (a non-profit swim club looking for new families, terraceclub.org).

Ways YOU can volunteer with ICO

Volunteer as an assistant leader on one of our published trips. Commitment level is low, and the satisfaction of working with kids is high.

Become an ICO outings leader. You have to volunteer on at least a few outings, join the Sierra Club (\$25), get fingerprinted (for a background check) and take an 8-hour (2 evening) Red Cross First Aid/CPR class (which ICO will pay for). If all goes well, you'll be approved to be a leader at an ICO meeting, and can start taking kids from a school (or other group) on trips once a month. We look for a commitment of at least a year when you become a leader.

Become involved in supporting the infrastructure of the ICO group. Please contact Kurt Aronow at 303.823.6135 or aronow@indra.com for more information.



ICO Contacts

ICO cell phone (also for messages): 720.299.9967

- To subscribe to our newsletter contact Melody at Melody_Cheung@jdedwards.com
- To become an ICO leader contact Jennifer Stotter at nif2@aol.com or 303.300.9661
- To volunteer or donate equipment contact Kurt at KurtA@exabyte.com.
- <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/outings/ico/index.shtml>

ICO WISH LIST FOR THE COMING YEAR

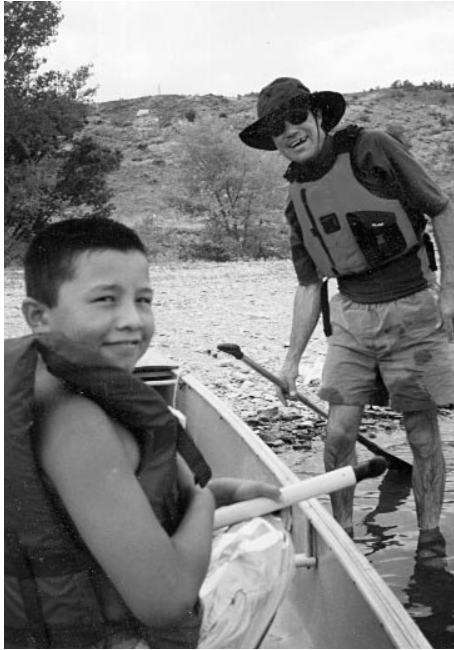
Camping supplies for warm weather, including boots, backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, pads.

Lovingly-used outdoor non-cotton warm clothing.

And, of course, volunteers are always needed to assist our trained leaders on trips, or to help with grant writing, equipment repairs or whatever expertise you have to offer.

& INTO THE WOODS

LETTERS FROM ICO PARTICIPANTS



What Sierra Club Means to Me

I want to tell you my story about my experiences with the ICO. I have been in ICO for about two years and I have been in a lot of trips. We usually practice at Winter Park for fun but I like more to go out in the back country skiing because it is funner and we see the nature and have fun with our friends, with out smoke and pollution. In Denver we all live in apartments but with the ICO we have the opportunity to know the nature or other things besides cars, pollution and buildings. I have been on several trips. One time we went to a place very far away from the city called the Tenth Mountain Hut. There was beautiful wild life like some song birds and the trees. And another trip that I did was in one

place called Second Creek. We practiced telemark and backcountry skiing. In this club we don't need to have skis or anything you just need your person and you need to be able to learn things. I'm really thankful with the ICO because I have the opportunity to go and ski, know a lot of places and be in contact with the nature. Hey! You know something, I don't speak English very well so they help in the ICO. I like it because you feel good when they help you. You can feel that friendship and I like to be with them.

Thank you ICO.
Cesar Rascon
Sophomore, Lincoln High School



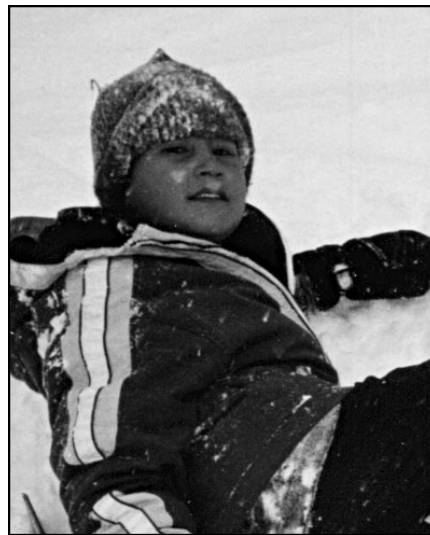
Cesar Rascon

Sierra Club: The Next Generation

Hi, my name is David Flores and I am in the sixth grade at Henry Middle School. I am a member of the Sierra Club and go on the ICO trips. My membership expires in April and I need to earn some money to pay my dues.

There are other kids in my group the same way. Also new kids who want to join. If you have any work that we could do to earn the dues, \$19, please let us know. Please call the College View Group leader, Dan Ridgeway at (303)761-9502 or e-mail at djridgew@ouray.cudenver.edu.

Thanks, David



David Flores

ICO Donor List

Thanks to the people who donated equipment:

- Kris Combs
- Rusty Jesse
- Libby Tart
- Kathy Glatz
- SnowSports Industries America Foundation
- Provider's resource Clearinghouse

Thanks to vendors who gave us deals:

- Gary and Roland at Neptune Mountaineering, Boulder
- Polly Tucker from Swix
- Kirk Haskel from G-3
- T.J. Larson with Fisher Skis

Super extra thanks to Scott Sutton at Apin Sales who represents: Garmont, K2, Marmot, and Tubbs.

Many thanks to anyone we left out. Also a bow to all ICO volunteers who helped in diverse ways by inventorying, marking, assembling, and building racks for the new gear.

Inter-Regional Outing Grant Approved

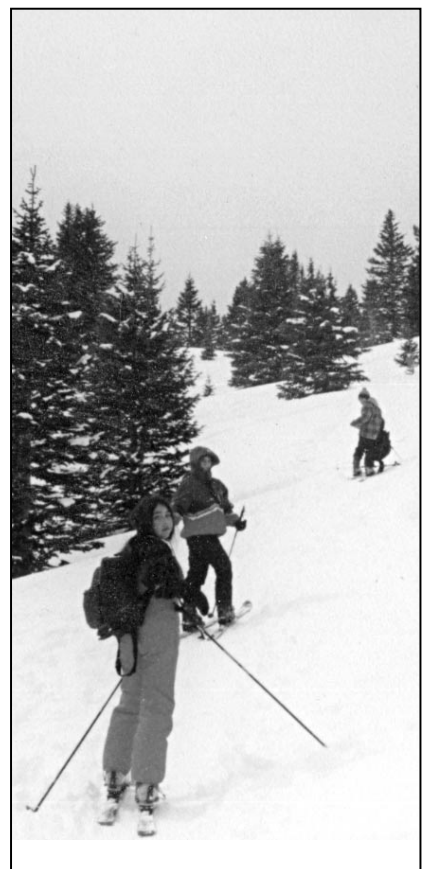
by Kathy Glatz

Our SW regional ICO has received a grant to take kids from Colorado and Texas to New Mexico for a 4-day backpacking trip in the Pecos Wilderness, and to visit the ruins at Bandelier National Monument. Part of one day will be spent assisting park staff with a service project. In addition to learning outdoor survival skills and ethics, participants will

learn to form teams with kids from other states. (I'm going to beg our local ICO to extend this trip an extra few days to include our Sand Dunes National Monument and other tours of forts along the way, ending up at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs so the kids' families will recognize them upon their return!)

ICO Contacts

- ICO cell phone (also for messages): 720.299.9967
- To subscribe to our newsletter contact Melody at Melody_Cheung@jdedwards.com
 - To become an ICO leader contact Jennifer Stotter at nif2@aol.com or 303.300.9661
 - To volunteer or donate equipment contact Kurt at KurtA@exabyte.com.
 - <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/outings/ico/index.shtml>



The Dollars and Cents of Renewable Energy

By Brian McIntosh, RMC Energy Committee

Educating decision-makers and supporting legislation that will require Colorado's largest utilities to meet the states demand for electricity through clean renewable energy sources are a primary goals of the Colorado Clean Energy Campaign. But convincing voters and legislators of the merits of renewable energy is often difficult because of widely held misconceptions about the costs and perceived unfair government support of renewable energy. Most people understand the positive environmental benefits provided by clean renewable energy, but not all understand the costs of these technologies and, indeed, positive financial impacts of renewable energy.

Myth #1: "Renewable energy costs more." The costs for all renewable energy technologies have been dropping faster than for conventional technologies, and wind and geothermal power are actually cost-competitive in many areas with gas and coal. And after the initial capital expenditures on equipment, the cost of the wind and sun is free over the lifetime of the equipment, with the exception of minor maintenance. By contrast, the costs for electricity generated from natural gas – the electric industry's first choice for new generation – are invariably going to rise in the long-term as demand outstrips supply, as is currently the case. In this regard, wind energy, with predictable long-term costs, actually acts as a hedge against volatile gas prices – and subsequently electricity prices – providing price stability. While solar power is still many times more expensive than conventional generation, it is still the most economical generation technology for applications remote to the electrical grid. Yet solar, wind, and all renewable energy technologies, are on a downward cost trajectory as technologies mature and greater production lowers manufacturing costs.

Myth #2: "Renewable energy would never make it without subsidies" Government funds for energy development in 1999 totaled \$3.9 billion dollars, \$2.8 Billion (72%) of which went to oil, gas, coal and nuclear energy. Many people would consider these energy sources self-sustaining and not in need of government support. They do not realize that all energy production in the U.S. today is subsidized in some form or another, and the cost for electricity would be much greater if it were not for the government subsidies going to these "mature" industries. By comparison, less than one percent of this energy budget, \$346 Million, went to developing renewable energy,

including hydropower. Renewable energies do receive government funding and tax incentives, but the issue is not whether government should invest in clean energy development; rather how much subsidy each energy resource should receive. In the first fifteen years of its development, nuclear power received 33 times more subsidies per kWh produced than wind power in its first fifteen years, and twice as much as solar energy.

In fact, all of the above conventional technologies received comparatively larger subsidies when the government felt they needed an incentive.

Misconceptions like those above influence voters' and, legislators' decisions for supporting renewable energy and these myths are some of the greatest obstacles to what could otherwise be a rapidly developing, economical and increasingly sustainable renewable energy industry. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that Colorado's economy, health and environment could benefit significantly by generating 20% of its electric power from renewable energy by 2020. As anyone familiar with Colorado's sun-filled days, blustery plains and wind-swept ridges can imagine, our state has enormous renewable energy potential estimated at over 549.0 billion kilowatt-hours (the average household uses 1000 kilowatt-hours per month). Estimated financial benefits include millions of dollars going to rural landowners, hundreds of millions in taxes for rural governments, \$1.9 billion less spent on consumer electricity bills over the next 18 years, and the creation of hundreds of jobs.

Renewable energy has clear health and environmental advantages, but that should be enough to motivate most Americans into action. However, the greatest motivator will come from financial rewards that impact an individual's pocketbook. The Clean Energy Campaign is a grassroots effort to require Colorado utilities to increase the portion of electricity they produce from renewable sources. This effort needs your help. To learn more visit www.rmc.sierraclub.org/energy or call the Sierra Club at 303-861-8819.

1 The Union of Concerned Scientist, "Renewing Colorado" fact sheet, February 2002.

Family Law Bodily Injury DUI

Gary L. Merritt
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No-Brainer Water Conservation

One way to conserve water is to remember to avoid wasteful habits such as taking baths instead of showers, leaving the faucet running while washing vegetables or brushing teeth, or watering the garden on a hot windy day. But there are also some one-time household fixes that will help you conserve water without even thinking about it:

Install new faucet washers and use low-flow faucet aerators. Never leave a faucet dripping. A faucet that drips once per second that can waste 3.5 gallons per day or around 1200 gallons every year.

Turn the valves under the sink to reduce the rate of water flow.

Test your toilet for silent leaks, which can waste up to 150 gallons of water a day. Put a dozen drops of red

food coloring into the tank. If the dye appears in the bowl, there is a silent leak; you may need to change the flapper or ball. If no dye appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, the toilet is leak free.

If you have an older model of toilet, install a space occupier in the tank to reduce the amount of water used for each flush.

Evaluate for other hidden water leaks. Read your water meter while no water is being used in your house. Check again after several hours when no one has used any water. If the meter reading has changed, you may have an underground water leak.

Insulate your water heater and all hot water pipes. Less water will be wasted before hot water flows.

Recommended Reading List

By Peter Butler, Indian Peaks Group

If you want to be a good environmentalist, the more you know the better. Sometimes the things you learn are scary and depressing but that's why we're all making this effort isn't it? We need to prevent greedy lunatics from destroying the planet, and smell the flowers at the same time. We hope that these reading suggestions might help you explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

Annals of The Former World - John McPhee

Ansel Adams: A Biography - Mary Street Alinder

Believing Cassandra - Alan AtKisson

Beyond Growth - Herman E. Daly

Cadillac Desert - Marc Reisner
Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things - McDonough
For the Common Good - Herman E. Daly and Cobb, J.
Guns, Germs, and Steel - Jared Diamond
Is Your Food Safe? - Warren Leon and Caroline DeWaal
Natural Capitalism - Paul Hawken
Refuge - Terry Tempest Williams
The Fatal Harvest Reader - Edited Andrew Kimbrell
The Sibley Guide to Birds - David Allen Sibley

What books do you recommend?

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).

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!

styles

Recyclers' Corner

Articles sponsored by Denver Recycles

Denver Recycles Collects All Plastic Bottles

Recycling in Denver got easier. To take the guess work out of recycling plastic bottles, Denver Recycles, the City's residential recycling program is now collecting all plastic bottles.

What's a plastic bottle?

Check for the neck! A bottle is a container that has an opening smaller than its base and usually has a screw top lid. Plastic bottles found in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, garages, playrooms and utility closets that are used to package such products as soft drinks, milk, shampoo, cleaners, peanut butter and laundry detergent will now be collected under this program.

Denver Recycles also collects aluminum and steel food and beverage containers (including empty aerosol cans), glass bottles and jars (green, brown, and clear), and newspapers with inserts.

Denver residents who are not already participating in the Denver Recycles program can call 720-865-6805 to sign up for the service for no additional fee. For more information on all plastic bottles recycling and the recycling program call 720-865-6805 or visit Denver Recycles web site at: www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles. ■



Ask the Recycle Lady: Supporting Municipal Recycling

by Leslie Martel Baer, MA

Mountain Muse Communications
Dear Recycle Lady: Over the past year, I have seen coverage of the impracticality of municipal recycling. Programs in New York and other metropolitan areas are in upheaval. The press reports repeated discussions of charging for Denver's curbside program. Are these programs worthwhile? Do the materials get recycled? Should I support my tax-funded recycling program?

– Bin Wondering

Dear Wondering: Many Sierrans have asked these questions recently; this column is dedicated to providing answers and clearing up misconceptions.

The Denver Mayor's office, two city council persons and Denver Recycles staff assure me there are no plans to drop or charge a fee for curbside recycling. In fact, Denver Recycles has voluntarily helped with the City's budget crisis

by adjusting routes and making other changes to increase efficiency, reduce costs and maintain current levels of service.

Let's review a few facts, using Denver Recycles' 2001 and 2002 budgets as a reference point (figures below are approximate). (Because landfilling and recycling involve land and commodities prices, costs vary from region to region and year to year. The Denver Recycles experience should broadly apply to the Front Range and some Western Slope areas.) Recycling is waste removal. It is not and should not be "free," as it provides a service, like trash hauling. Denver residents pay for recycling with taxes. Private hauler customers pay as part of their waste removal package or with an additional fee. Drop off recyclers pay with the time and resources needed to go to drop locations and with a fee for some items. Drop centers are also funded by income

from recyclables, government support or corporate sponsors. Colorado has a low rate of recycling when compared nationally. The fact results from a variety of pressures: for example, Colorado's sparse population and the large amount of reserved landfill space—enough to serve the Denver Metro area for nearly 100 years!

Therefore, landfill fees are quite low for much of the state; without a change in economic pressures or regulations, it is difficult to argue an immediate or obvious need to change current waste practices. Yes, a poorly run municipal recycling program can be an economic or environmental burden. Yet, well-run programs can save local governments—thus taxpayers—money while providing environmental and economic benefits. The following figures illustrate these savings.

City of Denver Residential Waste Removal & Curbside Recycling Expenses

Annual recycling program costs include savings from not landfilling recycled materials (these savings are not included in per ton costs). In 2001, the program effectively made a small profit. Further, these figures do not include economic benefits like local commodities sales and jobs created by recycling. Recycling actually costs the City of Denver less per ton than hauling those same materials as trash. If every eligible Denver household participated in the curbside program (current participation is at 50%) the City would net a savings of \$40,000-\$80,000, not counting saved landfill fees. Residents can ease the City's budget crunch through curbside recycling. Clearly, well-run programs like Denver Recycles or EcoCycle in Boulder, Loveland's curbside program and others—do save money, divert usable commodities to viable businesses, preserve natural resources and save land for uses other than landfills. These programs are an important part of our waste management plan and they need your help.

First, sign up to use the programs. Next, Julie Klein of Denver Recycles (720-865-6813; DenverRecycles@ci.denver.co.us) encourages you to volunteer. In an effort to keep public relations and educational costs down, Denver Recycles will start a block

captain program in 2003. You can distribute materials and host informational gatherings. To learn how you can help programs elsewhere, call your local recycling or solid waste department; Colorado Recycles (303-231-9972; www.colorado-recycles.org) is a good place to start your search for local information.

Mountain Muse Communications provides complete print and electronic communications services to socially and environmentally responsible organizations, including waste and environmental impact reduction consulting, presentations and workshops. 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 or Ask the Recycle Lady,

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We Love Creation. They Love the Creator

– Is Reconciliation Possible?

Daniel Ziskin, PhD

Creation, which we environmentalists love, is a source of endless fascination. What is it about nature that compels us more than the work of human hands ever could? My response is four-fold. Creation is big. Creation is small. Creation is complex. And Creation is simple.

The bigness of Creation is so obvious it is barely worth mentioning. How big is the entire Earth? (Big enough so that we need to poison her with car exhaust just to get from place to place.) And yet the Earth is a mote of dust in the solar system. And the solar system is one of a hundred billion stellar objects in this galaxy. You know the rest of this liturgy. Likewise, so is the smallness self-evident. Imagine the smallest crumb you can see. That crumb is an Earth all to itself. The smallness of scale that the preponderance of life exists on is a mystery beyond reason. And the bacteria and cooties that populate that microscopic dimension are themselves gigantic to the atomic scale. Even the atoms themselves consist of vastly smaller entities such as quarks and electrons. The range of scale from super-clusters of galaxies to sub-atomic particles surely makes the paradox that Creation is both big and small the understatement of 2003.

Nature is also complex. Consider one of the simplest forms of life – a blade of grass. Even this relatively formless corner of the biosphere contains molecules of staggering complexity. This blade of grass also creates a seed. This seed contains the instructions to make itself new. Not just the instructions - the mechanism to actually recreate the next generation perpetually. It would be analogous to us building a car where the plans for the car were hidden in invisible ink on the windshield (like the Mach-5) and the

plans also included the blueprints for the factory to make this car. And have the instructions so encoded so that the next car would be thermodynamically capable of making itself. That's complex.

And yet Creation is simple. We believe it is guided by a few simple rules. All matter attracts itself (gravity). Electric charges interact following the laws of electromagnetism (Maxwell's equations). The particles within each atomic nucleus are bound to each other (strong force). And the laws of thermodynamics govern these interactions. How could such a bland set of rules manifest as the wonder of Creation?

As we ponder these riddles, a line from the Psalms comes to mind. "How great are your works, Creator. How very deep are your designs." (Ps 92:6). The first phrase acknowledges the bigness and smallness of Creation. The second regards complexity and simplicity. It is possible for people of faith to grasp these spectacular aspects of Creation (surprise!). Why do they seem to get so hung up on worshipping the Creator? Likewise, they are confused how we can have such a profound encounter with Creation and be ambivalent about its source.

As we "evangelize" to the faith community about the value of good Earth-stewardship, we should keep in mind their perception that our perspective is incomplete. If we are not prepared to tolerate their Truth that a Creator causes the whole universe to exist, we should not expect them to tolerate our Truth that the Earth is worth saving for its own sake.

Daniel Ziskin is the president of Jews Of The Earth (JOTE), an eco-Jewish group based in Boulder Colorado. For more info see www.jote.org.

Ten Reasons • from page 1

6. 'Loathsome' energy bill dies in committee. The House bill included drilling in the Arctic and billions in tax breaks to the fossil fuel industries. The Senate bill spared the Arctic and promised fewer tax breaks, but was still a huge step backward. Any marriage of these bills would have increased pollution and the nation's dependence on oil.
7. The last time anti-environmental Republicans took over Congress, they squandered their 'mandate.' House Speaker Newt Gingrich launched his ambitious "Contract With America" in early 1995, which would have dismantled decades' worth of environmental protection. By the end of the year, his campaign had sputtered and only a fraction of it became law.
8. The Kyoto Protocol is on the verge of ratification. In December, Canada and New Zealand signed the Kyoto Protocol, bringing the total to 98 countries, contributing 40.7 percent of greenhouse emissions. The Kyoto

Protocol becomes law when a minimum of 55 countries covering at least 55 percent of 1990 greenhouse gas emissions have ratified it. Despite the U.S. refusal to sign it, it will take effect when Russia, which has promised to ratify, signs it in 2003.

9. The Sierra Club is strong. PRWeek named the Sierra Club "the most powerful and influential solutions-based nonprofit environmental organization in the country." With more than 700,000 members in 66 chapters and 355 groups and a \$70 million budget, the Sierra Club is solvent, stable, and ready to climb into the ring for the next round.
10. The Sierra Club is attracting young people. The Sierra Student Coalition has more than 20,000 members and is active on more than 100 campuses. The SSC's organizing training programs have trained hundreds of high school and college students in activism, many of whom have become volunteer leaders of the Club.

Activism in the Snow • from page 6

Our other leg of the tour took us into Steamboat Springs.....

Friday, February 21st – Deb and I challenge the forces of nature as we attempt to make it to Steamboat in a serious snowstorm! We did make it in one piece, thanks to some entertaining CDs and good conversation. Later we had dinner with a few activists in the area.



(l-r) Libby Tart and Deb Robinson toured Colorado meeting people interested in Sierra Club issues.

Saturday, February 22nd –

Snow, snow everywhere! The snow continued to fall throughout the night. Deb and I were slightly concerned about the safety of my Camry on Rabbit Ears Pass, but we survived and had the best snowshoe we've had all winter. A great group of people showed up for both the snowshoe and the potluck later that evening.

Sunday, February 23rd –

Met with members for breakfast at a local coffee shop and entertained thoughts of staying one more night because of the amount of snow on the passes. However, we

made it through by taking the long way back to Denver. Lots of traffic on the road and some nasty weather conditions, but we prevailed!

Thanks to all of the members and public that joined in with us on our journeys. We had a marvelous time talking to each and every one of you about issues that you care about and are interested in at your regional level. It's fascinating when we receive that kind of feedback about growth, water, forest/wilderness issues, and energy.

Many thanks also to our business co-sponsors, La Fuma and Odwalla. They were so generous with their donations and we greatly appreciate them!

Sierra Club Sells Coffee Coffee never felt so good!

The Sierra Club has a new program to help protect migratory songbirds, small farmers and consumers – by selling coffee with a difference. Sierra Club Coffee is:

Certified Organic: Sierra Club Coffee is grown without the dangerous pesticides and fertilizers that are commonly used on conventional coffee plantations.

Fair Trade Certified: Fair trade raises living standards for small farmers while helping to protect the environment. Fair trade practices include: paying farmers a fair price; helping farmers gain direct access to loans and establishing relationships between buyers and farmers.

Shade Grown: Unlike much conventional coffee, Sierra Club Coffee is grown under diversified shade cover, the natural habitat of hundreds of species of migratory songbirds.

Sierra Club Coffee is a deep roasted blend of Latin American and Indonesian coffee that bridges the gap between tasting great and doing good. A portion of every purchase of this delicious coffee directly supports the Sierra Club in its mission to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. You can buy Sierra Club Coffee at www.sacred-groundscoffee.com/sierra.html.



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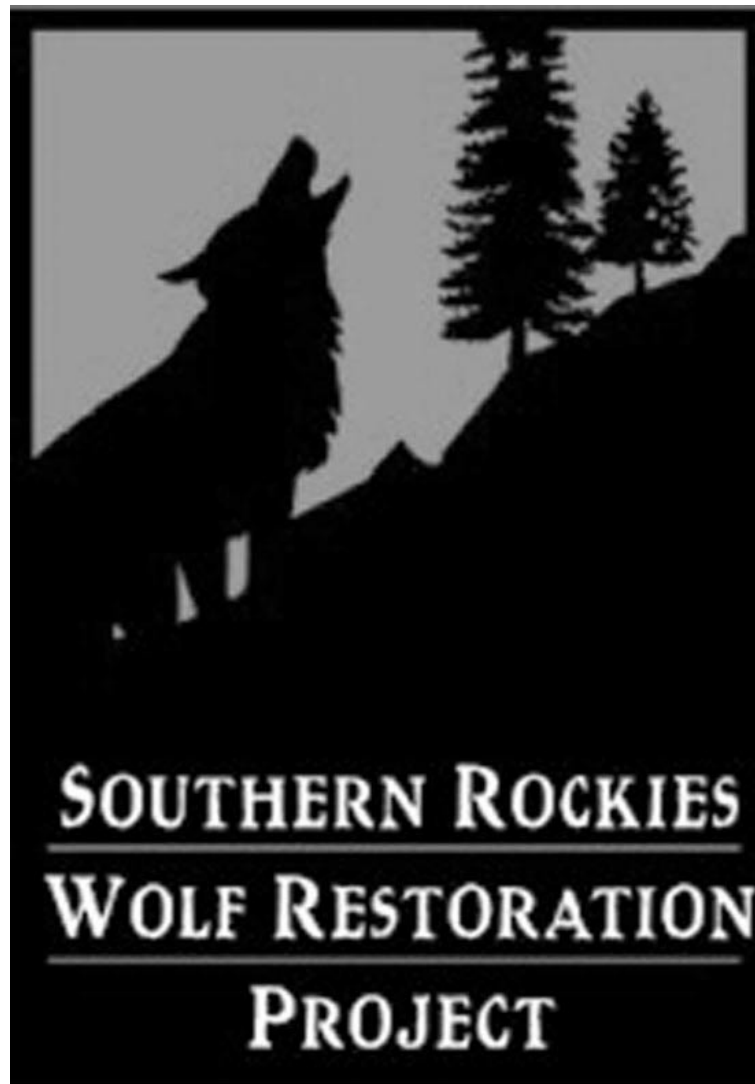
Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project

The Sierra Club's Southwest Regional Office in Boulder is co-directing the Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project, a coalition of conservation groups dedicated to returning the gray wolf to the Southern Rocky Mountains, including parts of Colorado.

However, plans to restore the balance by returning the wolf may face the same fate as grizzly bear restoration. We need you and all of our activists at the ready. Much of the effort to ensure recovery is centered on building public support and understanding for the important role that wolves play in the native ecosystems of the Southern Rockies

— and reminding our public officials that science is on the side of restoring wolves to more places. These important decisions should be based on sound science, not politics.

We here at the Sierra Club can play an especially important part in this coalition effort by mobilizing our active, dedicated, and skilled volunteers to speak out and educate in favor of restoring the balance to the Southern Rockies by returning the wolf. For more information, please visit the Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project's web page at www.rockywolf.org.



ONE DAY

By Lynn Fogarty

In a day, I could pray
For things to be right
With the world again

My eyes would see
The best you can be
And we would not fight again

The children, they hear
From us, they learn fear
Please hold me, dear

For a lifetime I've prayed
A happy home I've made
So much to be thankful for

I wish you love,
That it will be enough
To carry you through
When times get tough

SUV Backlash

— *The wheels are starting to turn*

by John Byrne Barry

The SUVs keep rolling off the car lots, there's no denying that. And Congress, which rejected an opportunity to increase fuel-efficiency standards for cars and SUVs last year, is certainly not poised to change its mind anytime soon.

But the notion that gas-guzzling SUVs are our birthright as Americans is losing traction. With a war against Iraq close at hand, fuel-efficient vehicles are starting to sound prudent to more and more Americans, not just Sierra Clubbers and their ilk. Gas-guzzling SUVs are becoming-cross your fingers-uncool.

Certainly the backlash against SUVs, simmering for years, is blazing now.

You can see it in the "What Would Jesus Drive?" campaign launched last fall by the Evangelical Environmental Network. You can see it in the provocative TV ads aired by commentator Arianna Huffington equating SUV ownership with supporting terrorism. "This is George," a child's voice says. "This is the gas that George bought for his SUV. These are the countries where the executives bought the oil that made the gas that George bought for his SUV. These are the terrorists who get money from those countries every time George fills up his SUV."

You can see it in Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney's proposal to eliminate all but the most essential SUVs in the state government fleet in favor of cars that get better mileage.

You can see it in the peace marches- Sierra Club volunteers and staff marched in San Francisco with an "environmentalists against the war" contingent on January 18, among



placards that read, "If there's a war, draft SUV drivers first."

There's more. Keith Bradsher, who covered the auto industry for The New York Times until last year, blasted SUVs in "High and Mighty: The World's Most Dangerous Vehicles and How They Got That Way," published last September. A billboard for BMW's Mini proclaims, "The SUV Official Backlash Starts Today." The Bush administration's proposal to boost the tax deduction businesses can take for new SUVs to \$25,000 was greeted with outrage, and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) announced a bill to stop it. Toyota promised that every model it makes by 2004 will be available as a hybrid. GM said it plans to offer a broader array of hybrid gas-electric vehicles. "You just can't fly in the face of public opinion," said Robert Lutz, GM's vice chairman for product development.

Last summer, after the Senate rejected a fuel-economy hike, the Sierra Club launched

its "freedom option package" campaign, in which we took the fight for fuel efficiency to consumers and auto companies. Despite what our opponents might say, the Sierra Club is not against SUVs per se, but against the loophole that allows them to pollute more than regular passenger cars. The technology to make them more fuel efficient is available now.

Whether our campaign is having unexpectedly quick results or is mirroring a shift in public opinion isn't clear, but it has struck a chord. What we've been saying about fuel efficiency for ten years is finally being echoed by many others across the political spectrum.

A hulking behemoth like the auto industry doesn't have a small turning radius, no matter how much power steering it has. The change we're seeking isn't going to happen overnight. But the wheels are starting to turn.

John Byrne Barry is the Editor of The Planet, the Sierra Club's newsletter for activists.

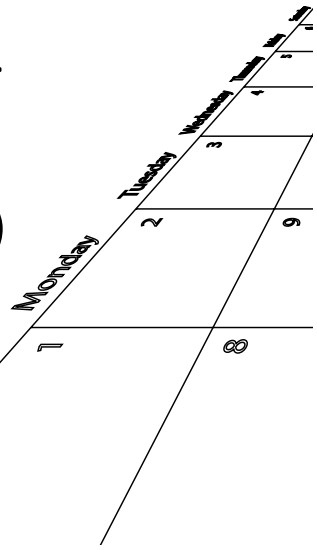
**Happy Spring
from all
of us
at the
Sierra
Club**



You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.... You must do the thing you cannot do.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

CALENDAR



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

for
July/August/September 2003 issue
Monday, **May 27, 2003**

To list your event, email
**editor@
rnc.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@rnc.sierraclub.org.

Please check the web site – www.rnc.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 •

**Friday, Apr. 11, 5:30 - 7 PM
Happy Hour, Colorado Springs**
Sunbird Restaurant, 230 Point of the Pines Dr. Join the Sierra Singles for half price drinks, live entertainment, good food and great views. RSVP Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.

**Sunday, April 13
Nugget Hill, Boulder County**
Hike past old mines to a great 360-degree view. Trail is short but steep, a good conditioner hike. 5 miles roundtrip, 1,400 ft. elevation gain. If weather or trail is poor we will do an alternate hike. RSVP Bev Baker, 303/447-8390 (before 8 p.m. please)

**Thursday, Apr. 17, 7:30 PM -
Whenever
Blues Nite, Colorado Springs**
Navajo Hogan's Roadhouse, 2817 N. Nevada. Let's have some fun at Blues Nite with the Sierra Singles! Meet us for evening Blues and dancing with some of the greatest musical talent Colorado Springs has to offer. Call Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.

**Saturday April 19, 6:30 pm
Potluck in Boulder.**
Please RSVP by April 12 to Anne Seidenberg at Anne302@Aol.Com. Volunteers for after-party cleanup are greatly appreciated. Call (303) 514-4232.

**Saturday, Apr. 19, 9 AM - 1 PM
Waldo Canyon Loop – Meet in
Colorado Springs**
Meet us for a fun General Membership Outing “up Ute pass.” 7 mi. round trip, with a (non-trivial) 1700' Elev. Gain. Bring a lunch and drink, and be prepared for snow and ice! Call Christie Lee at 719-635-2336.

**Saturday, April 19, 9:00 AM - 1 PM
Section 16 Hike, Colorado Springs**
An easy 6-mile loop hike with the Sierra Singles. 1,400 feet Elev Gain. RSVP to Jim McCreary at 264-8486 by Friday evening, April 18th for information.

**Saturday, April 19
Centennial Cone Day Hike, Jefferson
County**
Explore Centennial Cone in Golden Gate Canyon, a unique geologic feature and one of Jefferson County's newest Open Space Parks. Leisurely 4-mile hike, easy to moderate pace, elevation gain of about 700 ft. Open sunny terrain with some wooded areas and nice views. RSVP Lin Hark at 303-674-9369 or Linbike@juno.com. Limited to 12 participants.

**Saturday, April 26
Homestead, Mesa, Big Bluestem Trail
Loop, Boulder County**
Easy/moderate loop hike, 4.5 miles roundtrip with 1,000 ft. elevation gain. We'll wander through a nice mix of grassland, pine forest, and creekside habitat and pass some old homestead sites. Contact Steve Welter, 303-499-7261.

**Sunday, Apr. 27, 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Seven Bridges Trail Hike, Colorado
Springs**
Hike Seven Bridges trail with the Sierra Singles - it's fun and close to town! About 5 miles, with a 500 ft Elev. Gain. Pack a snack; we will go for eats and treats after. RSVP to Dave Harmer by Sat. Apr. 26. Will carpool. Call Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.

**Saturday, May 3, 9:00 to noon.
Wetlands Restoration: Sawhill Ponds,**

Boulder
Wetlands restoration work at Open Space. Emphasis will be on the removal of non-native species. Contact Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519.

**Saturday, May 3, 8:30 AM - Late Day
Snowshoe or Hike, Colorado Springs**
Snowshoe - or hike depending on snow conditions - up Northstar, a 13,000-foot peak, south of Quandary and north of Hoosier Pass with the Sierra Singles! The Outing is rated as “difficult” with a 2400 ft Elev. Gain over 8 miles round trip. Contact Christie Lee at 719-635-2336 for registration.

**Saturday, May 3
Beaver Creek Proposed Wilderness
Dayhike, Colorado Springs**
On our annual spring trip to the wild south slope of Pikes Peak, we will cover a strenuous 7 miles gaining 3,000 feet in elevation amid granite canyon scenery. RSVP John Stansfield at 303-660-5849 or jorcstan@bewellnet.com

**Friday, May 9, 5:30 - 7 PM
Happy Hour, Colorado Springs**
Sunbird Restaurant, 230 Point of the Pines Dr. with the Sierra Singles. Half price drinks, live entertainment, good food, great views. Call Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.

**Saturday, May 17, 9 AM to 12 PM
Barr Trail Outing, Colorado Springs**
Sierra Singles hike on Barr Trail to the Manitou Incline. This Outing has a 2000 ft. Elev. Gain and is 6 miles RT. RSVP Christie Lee, 719-635-2336. For those interested, we will have lunch at a restaurant afterwards.

**Saturday, May 17, 9 AM to 12 PM
Leader Training Hike, Colorado
Springs.**
Please contact Jim Lockhart for more information at 719-385-0045.

**Sunday, May 18, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sleeping Mountain, Colorado Springs**
Sierra Singles. Moderate to difficult 5-mile hike, with about an 800 foot Elev. Gain to the top at 10,604 ft, with great views along the way. We will carpool. RSVP to Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996 by Sat. May 17.

**Lichen Walk, Sunday May 18
Ann U White Trail, Boulder**
Learn about lichens on this easy 3.5 miles round trip hike. 600 ft. elevation gain. Contact Steve Welter, 303-499-7261.

**Sunday May 18
Mills Lake, Rocky Mountain National
Park**
Moderate hike with a round trip distance of 5 miles. Elevation gain is 700 ft, starting at 9,240 ft. This hike is extremely scenic with alpine views and subalpine forest. Starts at the Glacier Gorge trailhead. Call Maggie at 720/258-1897.

**Friday, May 23, 5:30 - 7 PM
Happy Hour, Colorado Springs**
Old Chicago, 4110 N. Academy. Start the weekend off right with the Sierra Singles. Great prices on drinks and munchies. Call Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996.

**Saturday, May 31
Bear Peak Loop, Boulder**
Climb Bear Peak via Fern Canyon and then loop back along Bear Peak West Ridge. Strenuous, about 7 miles RT and 2,500 ft. elev. gain. A good warm-up for summer climbs in the high country. Contact Rebecca Dickson, 303/499-7261.

**Friday, June 13, 4:30 - 7:30 PM.
Happy Hour at the Sunbird, Colorado
Springs**
230 Point of Pines Dr. Meet the week's Sierra Singles “survivors” either on the

patio (weather permitting) or in the lounge. Half price drinks, free snack food, live entertainment, and great views of the city. No RSVP required. Dave Harmer, 597-3996.

**Saturday, June 14, 9 AM to 12 PM
Barr Trail Hike, Colorado Springs**
On this hike the Sierra Singles will hike on Barr Trail to the Manitou Incline. This Outing has a 2000 ft. Elev. Gain and is 6 miles RT. Contact Christie Lee for information at 719-635-2336. For those interested, we will have lunch at a restaurant afterwards.

**Saturday, Sunday, June 14, 15
Easy Backpack, near Colorado Springs**
Prior backpacking experience or participation in the June 3 -10 backpack class are not required. There is no charge for this backpack, other than carpooling expenses, but participants bring their own individual food and equipment. For information, call Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045.

**Sunday, June 15, 9:30 - 2:30 PM
Hike Pancake Rocks, near Colorado
Springs**
Join the Sierra Singles gang for this popular hike with great views from the trail and from the pancakes. Pack a snack for the trail and we may stop for food and drinks afterwards. Rated moderate with a 1400-ft gain and about 5-mi RT. RSVP by Saturday, June 14, to Dave Harmer, 597-3996. Will carpool.

**Sunday June 15
Sky Pond, Rocky Mountain National
Park**
Strenuous hike to Timberline Fall, Lake of Glass and Sky Pond. Round trip 9.2 miles with a starting elevation of 9,240 ft and an elevation gain of 1,660 ft. Both Lake of Glass and Sky Pond are above treeline. The hike starts at the Glacier Gorge trailhead. Call Maggie at 720 258-1897.

**Saturday, June 28, 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Sierra Singles Dinner, Colorado
Springs**
Macaroni Grill, 7605 N. Join the Sierra Singles gang for a fun evening with ambience and fine Italian food at reasonable prices. RSVP to Dave Harmer, 597-3996.

**Friday, July 11, 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Happy Hour, Colorado Springs**
Sunbird, 230 Point of Pines Dr. Meet on the patio, weather permitting or in the lounge with the Sierra Singles. Half price drinks, free snack food and live entertainment, and great views of the city. No RSVP reqd. Dave Harmer, 597-3996.

**Saturday, July 19, 8 AM - Late Day
13,000 Ft Mountain Climb, from
Colorado Springs**
The Sierra Singles plan to climb a 13,000 ft peak, and will carpool to the base of that mountain (to be later announced). Elev Gain will be perhaps 4000-5000 ft, in a RT of maybe 12 miles, so come prepared for a workout! Contact Christie Lee for more information at 719-635-2336.

**Sunday, July 20, 9:30 - 2:30 PM
Hike Stanley Canyon, Colorado
Springs.**
Sierra Singles. Moderate to difficult hike with some challenging terrain. It has about a 1500-ft gain and is about 6-mi RT. Pack a snack for the trail and we may stop for food afterwards. RSVP by Saturday, July 14, to Dave Harmer, 597-3996. Will carpool.

**Friday, July 25, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Happy Hour at Old Chicago, N.
Academy**
Forget the midweek crises and join the Sierra Singles at Old Chicago and a movie afterwards. No RSVP reqd. For

info, Dave Harmer, 303 597-3996.

EVENTS

MountainFilm Festival Saturday, April 19, 6:00 - 9:30 PM Colorado Springs, Fine Arts Center, 30 West Dale Street

Reception, followed by 2 1/2 hours of adventure films, featuring "Mzima: Haunt of the Riverhorse", a lyrical look at a crystal-clear spring in Kenya; five other films follow. Tickets available beginning Mar 15th at Mountain Chalet, REI, and EMS for \$20; \$22 at door. www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg

Earth Day Service

April 22, 7pm, Denver

"Celebrating God's Good gift of Water." Christ Congregational Church, 2500 S Sheridan Blvd. For info call 303-715-3873. Sierra Club and Earth Justice Ministries.

Evening with John Fielder

April 29th at 7:00 p.m., Denver

Cameron United Methodist Church, 1600 S. Pearl Street, Denver. Tickets sold at the door, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Outdoor Leadership Workshop May 2 -4, 2003, Breckenridge

Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday Are you currently leading Sierra Club hikes, or would you like to? Want to strengthen your wilderness survival skills, use outings to raise the environmental awareness of participants, or just find out how to make your trips more enjoyable? For info, call Patricia Berman at 303-691-9255 or go to rmc.sierraclub.org/calendar

Beginner Backpack Class Tuesdays, June 3 and 10 6-9 pm Saturday, June 7, all day

This class for beginners and near-beginners will consist of two indoor informational sessions and one outdoor practice session. The basics of gear, hiking and camping techniques, safety. Saturday, take a short hike and set up a practice campsite. The total cost for the three sessions is \$30 per person (\$15 for additional family members). For information, call Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

All Members Welcome.

RMC = Rocky Mountain Chapter
Chapter Office is located at 1410 Grant Street, Suite B303 Denver
Enter on the north side of the building, ring doorbell.

Auction Committee
First Thursday of the month, 6:00 pm, Chapter Office.

Help plan our gala auction! Llibby, 303-861-8819.

Chapter Conservation Committee
Contact Kirk Cunningham, 303-939-8519.

Kirk.Cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org

Energy Committee

2nd Wednesday, 6:30

Support the Chapter's renewable energy campaign. Greg Casini, greg.casini@sierraclub.org

Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS)

Contact Lisa Lewis at 303-777-3664 and check the website for info: www.rmc.sierraclub.org/gls/act/html

Genetic Engineering Committee Last Wednesday 7:00 pm at Chapter office.

Call Suzanne Wuerthele to confirm (303) 333-2519, wuerthel@ecentral.com.

Inner City Outings (ICO)

Help young people learn about wilderness. Call ICO hotline, 720-299-9967.

Lifestyles Education Committee

April 21, May 19, June 16

6:30pm. Chapter office
JoLynn.Jarboe@juno.com

Pesticides Committee

April 23, May 16, June 20, 6 pm

Potluck at Chapter Office
Call Angela - 303-433-2608.

Transportation Committee Meeting, Fourth Thursday, 6pm

Susan LeFever, 303-861-8819
Susan.lefever@sierraclub.org

GROUP MEETINGS

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Blue River Group

(Summit, Grand & Eagle Counties)

First Monday of each month, 6 pm.

Call Karn Stiegelmeier 970-468-9013, copycopy@Colorado.net.

Enos Mills Group (Denver)

First Tuesdays, 6pm potluck followed by Executive Committee meeting, discussion of issues and activities. Ross-University Hills Library, 4310 E Amherst Ave. Call Diane, 303-504-9657.

High Plains Group

The Eastern Denver suburbs group is in reorganization. To get involved, call the office at 303-861-8819.

Indian Peaks Group (IPG) (Boulder County)

* IPG Conservation and Letter Writing, First Wed, 6:30 - 9 pm, Enviro Center of the Rockies, 2260 Baseline, Boulder.

Call Kirk, 303-939-8519, or kirk.Cunningham@rmc.sierraclub.org

* IPG Executive Committee Fourth Wednesday.

Steven Welter, 303-499-7261, steve.welter@rmc.sierraclub.org.

* IPG Sprawl & Transportation Tuesdays, 7pm.

Sonya Guram, 303-245-9115 or Sonya.guram@rmc.sierraclub.org.

* IPG Urban Land Use Third Mondays,

Matt Appelbaum, 303-499-8970.

Mount Evans Group (SW Jefferson, North Park, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties) Second Thurs - Evergreen Rec Center.

Betsy 303-674-7236.

Pikes Peak Group

(El Paso & Teller Counties)

* General Meeting, Second Tuesday Evening.

* Executive Committee, Third Tuesdays, Beidleman Environmental Center, Kirby Hughes, 719-685-3019.

Poudre Canyon Group (Larimer & Weld County)

* Executive Committee, Second Monday, 6:30 pm, Poudre Fire Authority Conference Room, 102 Remington, Ft Collins.

Janna Six 970-493-5034.

* Conservation Committee, Fourth Mondays, 6:30 pm Ft Collins, call Dan Bihn, 970-498-0376.

(Eastern Jefferson County)

The group is being reorganized. To get involved, contact the Chapter office at 303-861-8819.

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

Contact Jim Trujillo, 719-948-4129.

South Platte Group (Arapahoe, Douglas & Jeffco)

Second Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Dinner meeting at various restaurants. RSVP Judy Gee, 303-761-8743.

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

General Meeting, Second Mondays, 12 noon, Centennial Hall, 10th & Lincoln.

Call Jane, 970-8779-5760.

Uncompahgre Group (Mesa, Delta, Gunnison)

General Meeting, Call Shelly at 970-243-5138 for info.

Weminuche Group (Durango & surrounding Counties)

Third Weds, 5:30, Bayou Doc's, 710 2nd Avenue, Durango.

Everyone interested in preserving and enjoying the Four Corners' natural beauty is welcome! For info, hriegle@hotmail.com.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Painting Workshop to benefit Open Space & Trails: Plein-air painting in the Crystal River Valley with Henry Isaacs. May 29th, Redstone Art Center, Redstone, Co.

Call Bev Goss 888-963-3790

Renewable Energy Now! Community Prosperity Through Self-Sufficiency.

June 27 - 29 Montrose Pavilion, Montrose, Colorado.

www.cres-energy.org/

The Telluride Mushroom Festival August 21-24, 2003

Highlights: Dr. Andrew Weil, Mushroom Feast, Forays, Workshops www.shroomfestival.com May 29th, Redstone Art Center, Redstone, Co. Call Bev Goss 888-963-3790

Preserve The Future.

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

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (day & evening) _____

E-MAIL _____

Occupation/Educational Background

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

Accounting/Bookkeeping-Budget/Finance
 Air Quality
 Agriculture
 Energy
 Event Planning
 Environmental Education
 Environmental Justice
 Federal Facilities Monitoring
 Fund raising/Grant Writing
 Gay & Lesbian Sierrans—a social/outings group
 General office work, data entry, mailing parties
 Genetic Engineering
 Hazardous Materials/Toxics
 Information Technology-Computers/Web
 Inner City Outings
 International & Trade Issues
 Legislative-Contact legislators/hearings/review
 Media Relations/Publicity
 Membership/Volunteer Welcome Wagon

Merchandise Sales
 Mining
 Newsletters-Chapter/Group
 Outings/Outdoor Service Projects
 Outreach/Program Development
 Pesticides
 Phone Banking
 Population
 Recycling/Simplicity/Sustainability
 Singles
 Solid Waste-burning haz. wastes
 Speakers Bureau/Public Speaking
 Transportation
 Urban Land Use/Sprawl
 Water Quality
 Water Resources-prof. & experts
 Wilderness/Forests/BLM/Public Lands
 Wildlife/Endangered Species
 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!

April/May/June 2003

SIERRA CLUB

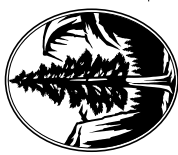
Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

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



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club

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

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PEAK & PRAIRIE

INSIDE this issue

1

SPEND THE EVENING WITH COLORADO PHOTOGRAPHER, JOHN FIELDER



4

PLAN AHEAD FOR FOREST FIRE SEASON



8-9

OUT OF THE CITY AND INTO THE WOODS



10

DOLLARS AND CENTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

