

# Chair's Corner

By Jane Ard-Smith

In this issue of the Timberlines, we are introducing a new column entitled "One Member's View." In this column, we hope to publish a variety of viewpoints from Pikes Peak Group members. Our goal is to encourage an open dialogue among the membership on environmental issues and philosophies. Our hope is that you will take this opportunity to speak out on issues that are important to you. Of course, we reserve the right not to publish personal at-

tacks or letters involving "non-environmental" topics, but we promise not to censor your letters just because we may disagree.

Our first letter comes from our new Program Chair, Dr. LeAnna DeAngelo. She has raised some thoughtful and important questions for the Sierra Club as a whole, as well as for me individually. I look forward to hearing your response....

## One Member's View

By LeAnna DeAngelo, Ph.D.

I do not see any mention of "compromising with big business" in the mission statement of the Sierra Club. Our stance on mining and drilling should be above-the-board, pure protection of the environment. Compromising only serves to weaken us as an organization. Willy-nilly efforts to say, "you can drill here but not one mile away" are *non sequitur*. If compromising is our only *modus operandi*, then eventually all land, regardless of beauty or historical significance, will be mined or deforested. We should preach abstinence about mining, logging, and drilling, and promote only car pooling, planting trees, bicycling lanes, organic farming, renewable energy, and the like.

Compromising on these issues is forfeiting a future for our children.

The people we are fighting against are irrational and greedy. We cannot compromise or use persuasive arguments to deal with irrational people. If this were true, we would have a lot more trees, and cleaner

air and water, and fewer tract homes and Walmarts. Why should we compromise and not them? Let them be the compromisers. Not us.

Does your morality dictate that it is acceptable to put pesticides in the food supply, to have increasingly unhealthy air and water, and copacetic that there will be a million more people along the Front Range in ten years? Their morality is such; ours should not be.

The Sierra Club needs to be rational. Many of these destroyers are Bible-lovers who claim to have high morality. We have let the destroyers make us feel shame as tree-lovers. What we should feel shameful about is our compromising attitude. They are winning and we are losing most of the time.

The time has come for a cognitive shift in the Sierra Club. We do not need to be co-dependent, shameful people because what we want is good and honorable. We need

to be rational and fight for the environment. Period. Any other stance should preclude one from being a member of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is supposed to be a visionary organization. When we compromise environment, it is immoral, for we compromise the quintessential attributes that make one a moral being. We compromise what the Creator gave us, our own health and well-being, and we are diluting our bodies and the planet for all future generations.

There is no greater immorality.

— LeAnna DeAngelo, Ph.D.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or Pikes Peak Group Executive Committee. If you'd like to submit a letter for "One Member's View," please send it via e-mail to [jane.ard-smith@lexisnexus.com](mailto:jane.ard-smith@lexisnexus.com).

(Meetings Continued from page 1)  
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### Timberlines Deadline: Feb. 15

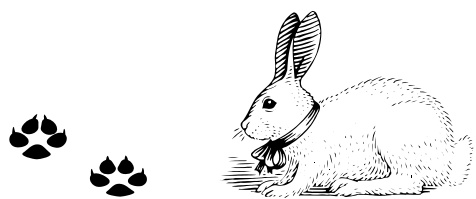
The **TIMBERLINES** Deadline is **Saturday, February 15** for the March/April issue. Happy Valentine's Day!

### Timberlines Mailing Potluck:

**Sunday, Feb. 26**

**5 pm**

Help our members fold and label the March/April *Timberlines* newsletter and share our favorite potluck meal with friends. For location and more information, contact Brian Judd and Sophie Kogut at 598-8285 or [skogut@ieec.org](mailto:skogut@ieec.org). **Please call to confirm.**



## Save Trees, Massacre Electrons... Get e-TimberLines

We are slowly, but steadily, increasing the number of folks who receive the *Timberlines* electronically. Want to join this elite group? It's easy! Just send an e-mail to Jane Ard-Smith([jane.ard-smith@lexisnexus.com](mailto:jane.ard-smith@lexisnexus.com)).

Be sure to include your name, regular mail address, and e-mail address. Also, please indicate whether you'd like to receive a .pdf file or just a notification that the *Timberlines* is available on the website.

## Colorado Springs' City Forester to Speak @Starsmore Ctr

Sierrans and any interested members of the community are invited to join Jim McGannon, City Forester, as he explains the recently developed plan to improve the health of North Cheyenne Cañon Forest. Topics will include the pine beetle and dwarf mistletoe infestation, removing of dead gamble oak, thinning, Christmas tree opportunities and how all this relates to a healthier forest, which in turn reduces catastrophic wild-fire threats. [*Sounds like a good opportunity to ask some in-depth questions — Ed.*]

Two meetings will be held at Starsmore Discovery Center, 2120 S. Cheyenne Cañon Road: on Thursday, February 3 and on Wednesday, February 23 from 6:30 pm to 7:30pm. For more information please call 578-6146 or 385-5942. Sponsored by Colorado Springs Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.