

As I mentioned in the last issue of the Timberlines, the Executive Committee has been discussing ways to improve our general meetings. If you haven't attended a general meeting in awhile, you're not alone. Our meeting attendance has been, well, spotty. So, we're implementing a few changes this fall. First, we're changing our meeting location. Our new meeting location is downtown at the Community Room of the Gay and Lesbian Center, 315 E. Costilla. Our hope is that a downtown venue will be more convenient and easier to find.

Second, we're changing the format for some of our general meetings. Our typical meeting format has been an invited speaker on a topic of general interest. This year, we're mixing it up a bit. Our first meeting in the fall will be a wine and cheese social – a few folks from the Pikes Peak Group will say a few words about what we've been up to as a group, but the main purpose of the fall kick-off is to give you a chance to meet other Sierra Club members and have a little fun. I hope you'll make plans to join us on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – see the separate an-

nouncement in this issue for more information.

Finally, we're trying to focus our meeting topics on issues that are impacting our community today. In October, our focus will be climate change and global warming. We'll have more details in the next edition of the Timberlines, but if you have any suggestions for topics or issues that are of concern, please let us know.

**Speak up for Browns Canyon Wilderness — *Congressman Lamborn needs to hear from you!***

*by Kurt Kunkle, CO Environmental Coalition*



Photo credit: Kurt Kunkle

**Editor Sought!**

*By Heather Preston, Editor*

Thank you, Pikes Peak Group! You've given me an outlet and a sense of being able to help with some aspect of the important work of the Sierra Club for three years, and I am so grateful! But now I will be moving on; the plans as of press time are that I will be moving to the Seattle area in late September; I just found out five days ago.

If you would like to take over as editor of TimberLines, put that portfolio together—if you have edited before, put your issues in a notebook or (heavens!) even a powerpoint, and contact Kirby Hughes, our volunteer coordinator. I have been working in Microsoft Publisher, so if you have it, easy! I will be glad to discuss any transitional necessities (producing PDFs for email subscriptions, etc.) with you once Kirby has heard from you and tells me about it! A wonderful opportunity for anyone who has very limited time but finds him/herself awake late at night looking for something useful to do!

My deep gratitude to Jane Ard-Smith and Kirby Hughes and Judy Schulman and Jim Lockhart and John Stansfield for their support and forbearance over the years! And if you know anyone who will be needing to rent a large house with in-law apt near the Air Force Academy starting October 1st, give me a call! Good luck and godspeed with your work to protect our wonderful environment from our own short-sightedness!

Congressman Doug Lamborn is examining the Browns Canyon Wilderness Proposal. Encouraging news!! The congressman is studying the area, gauging public sentiment and formulating his position. Please get out your pen and paper and write a quick letter to the congressman and tell him you support Browns Canyon for wilderness designation. He needs to hear from you!

The proposed Browns Canyon Wilderness is a rugged area with amazing scenery, rich wildlife habitat and great recreation opportunities. If you've ever floated down the Arkansas River or hiked northeast of Salida, you've experienced the beauty of Browns Canyon. Congressman Lamborn needs to learn about this area and wilderness in general. He needs to know that there are lots of folks out there like you that want to see more wilderness areas like Browns Canyon!

The proposal is supported by local governments, hikers, hunters, fishermen, conservationists and many local citizens.

**Suggested Talking Points**

- ◆ Let Representative Lamborn know who you are, your role in the community and you & your family's interest in the area.
- ◆ Thank him for his interest in wilderness designation for Browns Canyon.
- ◆ The proposal is ready to go. The work has been done. This is a clean, well-supported proposal.
- ◆ Access is not an issue. The Browns Canyon Wilderness will be open to everyone. Just park at a trailhead and go for a quiet walk or horseback ride in the wilderness.

- ◆ Motorized recreationists have ample places to go in and around Chaffee County.
- ◆ Shorten the Turret road so that it ends at the wilderness boundary. A cherry stem on the Turret Trail would be bad for the wilderness and create unsafe conditions for hikers and horseback riders and management nightmares with the BLM and Forest Service.
- ◆ The Pike & San Isabel National Forests has 2,350 miles of motorized roads and trails and the Salida Ranger District offers over 476 miles of motorized roads and trails.
- ◆ Browns Canyon offers excellent wilderness recreation opportunities for a wide variety of users — hikers, anglers, campers, horsemen, hunters, rafters.
- ◆ Wilderness is consistent with the multiple-use concept. The Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960, notes: "The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act" (See MUSYA, Sect. 2)
- ◆ Excessive numbers of roads on the landscape are bad for wildlife species which require contiguous wildlands to survive.

**Send your letters to:**

Representative Doug Lamborn, 3730 Sinton Road, Suite 150, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**For further information please contact:**

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