



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

# TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

MAR/APR 2005

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## ANWR "Backdoor" Attack

*Adapted from the cited websites by Heather Preston, Editor*

## MEETINGS

### General Meetings

are held at the CO Division of Wildlife, 4255 Sinton Road, Colorado Springs, 80907. DoW is on Sinton Rd approximately 1 block south of Garden of the Gods Road. Use rear entrance to building. For directions, call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045.

#### Tuesday, March 8 7 pm

Jim Keen, a filmmaker and award-winning photographer, will present videos and photos based on his book "Colorado Rocky Mountain Wide." Please come and join us in viewing these wonderful images of nature. The presentation will start at 7:15. FMI, please call LeAnna DeAngelo at (719) 481-0085.

#### Tuesday, April 12 7 pm

Gerald Stein, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychoanalysis at University of Colorado Health Sciences, will give a talk entitled "Nature in the Human Spirit: The Role of the Natural World in Emotional and Developmental Wellbeing."

### Online events calendar:

[www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg/calendar.html](http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg/calendar.html)

### Conservation and ExCom

**Meetings 6:30pm**

#### Tuesday, Mar. 15

#### Tuesday, Apr. 19

Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., COS  
All members are invited to participate in our monthly "business meeting."

### Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:

**Wednesday, Mar 9 6-9 pm**

**Thursday, Apr 14 6-9 pm**

*(Continued on page 2)*

Annoyed at public resistance to opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling, the Bush Administration and GOP Congressional leaders have come up with a plan for a sneak attack to enable ANWR drilling.

Instead of holding a direct vote on the Senate floor, where strong public opposition has halted drilling proposals as GOP members have "jumped the fence" to vote with their constituents' wishes, House and Senate leaders are quietly planning to attach the drilling measure to upcoming budget legislation, where (if read at all!) it would be all but impossible to stop. Budget bills are exempt from filibuster or extended debate.

"Not only does this type of backdoor maneuver endanger the Arctic Refuge, its wilderness and wildlife, it also poses a genuine threat to the integrity of our democratic process," said Bill Meadows, president of the Wilderness Society. The society reported that a recent bipartisan national survey found Americans oppose drilling in ANWR, 53 to 35.

The 1.5-million-acre coastal plain where drilling is proposed is described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service as the "biological heart" of ANWR. It is home to some 250 animal species, including caribou, polar bears, grizzlies, musk oxen, wolves, and millions of migratory birds.

The Bush Administration is insisting that ANWR drilling—which would begin to get oil into American markets about ten years from now—is essential to American energy independence, while refusing to consider such immediate solutions as an increase of only one mile-per-gallon in automobile fuel efficiency standards, an easily attainable goal that would save a half-million barrels of oil per day. With an actual interest primarily in energy independence, one might also expect pending GOP legislation to encourage such industrial energy conservation and greatly increased support for alternatives such as wind power and solar energy. Unfortunately, such legislation is apparently seen as "anti-business" even though in the long run, the entire economy would benefit from greater energy independence.

### Websites used in preparation:

[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

SaveOurEnvironment.org Alert, Feb. 22, 2005 and Environmental Media Service ([www.ems.org](http://www.ems.org))

## Help Police Stormwater Runoff—With a walk in the Park!

*By Jane Ard-Smith, Chair*

As you may know, here in El Paso County, our storm drain systems discharge directly into our streams and creeks – in other words, the water flowing through our storm drains does not go through a treatment plant to remove contaminants. As a result, any contaminants that are deliberately or accidentally put into the storm drain systems go directly into the creeks. Many of the contaminants entering our streams are due to illicit discharges.

Unfortunately, El Paso County does not have enough staff to frequently check each storm drain inlet and outlet. They need our help. Here's what you can do. If you notice any suspicious discharges or contaminants in a stormwater inlet or outlet, e.g., a funny odor, a strangely colored or iridescent liquid, or a bloom of algae, please contact the El Paso County Stormwater Hotline at (719) 520-6460. (Of course, if the contamination appears to be an immediate threat – like a toxic chemical spill – please call 911 immediately). Be sure to give the hotline operator as much information as

possible, including the exact location, the odor and color of the contamination, the possible source, etc.

For more information about what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution, visit the El Paso County website at <http://adm.elpasoco.com/transprt/stormwater.asp> or call Barbara Dallemund at 719-520-6826.

*You Are Cordially Invited to  
The 2005 City Council Candidate Debate*

*Tuesday, March 15 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

*\* Reception to follow \**

*Penrose House  
1661 Mesa Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906*

*RSVP by Thursday, March 10  
by calling (719) 577-7080*

*Business Attire*

*Space is limited*