



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

## MEETINGS

### GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meetings are held in the beautiful Community Room of the Gay and Lesbian Center, 315 E. Costilla, COS. Parking in back and at eastern side.

**Tuesday, October 9 7 pm**

Please check the website for our scheduled speaker.

**Monday, November 12 7 pm**

Come join award-winning photographer and environmentalist John Fielder for a slide show and talk about his latest books. The event will be held in the Great Hall at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church at 730 N. Tejon Street. We'll be offering John's books and calendars for sale, and a substantial portion of these sales will help to fund the Pikes Peak Group. As always, John will be available to autograph his books. Plan to arrive early, because this event is often standing room only.

**No General Meeting in December**

### Conservation and ExCom Meetings

**Tues, Oct 16 6:30 pm**

**Tues, Nov 20 6:30 pm**

**Tues, Dec 18 6:30 pm**

These are our monthly "business" meetings, held at Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., Colorado Springs. All members are welcome. The Conservation (6:30 pm) and ExCom (7:30 pm) meetings take place sequentially at the Beidleman Environmental

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# TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER  
WWW.RMC.SIERRACLUB.ORG/ppg

OCT-DEC 2007  
VOL 6 - ISSUE 4

## How Do We Measure the Quality of Life in El Paso County?

By Jane Ard-Smith, Chair, Pikes Peak Group

I've spent the last couple of days thumbing through a new report entitled "Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region." Sponsored by the Pikes Peak United Way, the El Pomar Foundation, and others, the report attempts to measure our quality of life by identifying nine areas of interest and establishing several data points for each area. The goal of the report is to present facts and show trends to "help community members prioritize and make educated decisions about which areas deserve investment of time, talent, and resources."

I participated in the Vision Council that identified the data points ("indicators") for "Preserving the Natural Environment." Our task was to identify readily available data by which we could measure how well we are preserving the natural environment. The Council had no shortage of ideas and suggestions on what we should be measuring. What I found remarkable, however, was how little data we are actually collecting, especially as it relates to our impact on the environment.

For example, the Council generally agreed that knowing how much we recycle as a community would be a good indicator of how well we are preserving our environment. However, we have no data

on how much we recycle. We know how much waste is deposited in El Paso County's three landfills, but we don't know how much of that waste is recyclable. This lack of data not only makes it difficult to determine our impact on the environment, it also makes it difficult to set quantifiable goals for our community. How much should we be recycling?

My hope is that the sponsors of the report, and the 100 community members who helped formulate the indicators, will identify areas where we need better data – and look for opportunities to collect that data.

I was also struck by the questions that the report raises, but leaves unanswered. The report compartmentalizes nine areas of interest. Many of the identified areas and indicators overlap and, in some cases, seem to conflict. How do we rank the indicators within each area of interest? How do we weigh the competing interests? My hope is that our community will use the report to begin those conversations.

You can access the report at [http://www.leadershippikespeak.org/pdf/QL\\_Indicators\\_2007.pdf](http://www.leadershippikespeak.org/pdf/QL_Indicators_2007.pdf). I encourage you to take a look and get involved.

## John Fielder is Coming!

**Save the Date - John Fielder Returns on  
November 12, 2007**

Internationally renowned photographer John Fielder will present his latest slide show and book, "Maria's Mysterious Mission," on Monday, November 12, 7 PM, at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 N. Tejon Street. In "Maria's Mysterious Mission," Maria the llama misses her home in the Andes as she

sets out on a photography trip with John. As John and Maria travel the hills and rugged red canyons of Colorado, Maria soon comes to love the vast and diverse scenery of her new home.

As in years past, we will have John's latest book for sale, as well as favorites from years past. John generously donates a substantial portion of the proceeds to the Pikes Peak Group – and John's books make wonderful holiday gifts.

