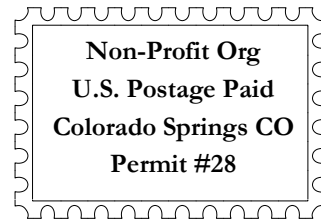




PIKES PEAK GROUP OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER OF THE
SIERRA CLUB
522 N. ROYER STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80903

www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg/



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TIMBERLINES

PIKES PEAK GROUP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

SEPT/OCT 2005

VOL 4 - ISSUE 5

Browns Canyon Wilderness Proposal Unveiled Letters of Support Needed by September 25

Submitted by John Stansfield, Vice Chair

Place Label Here

MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETINGS

are held in the Colorado Division of Wildlife Center at 4255 Sinton Rd in Colorado Springs
Tuesday, Sept 13 7 pm
Enos Mills: Rocky Mountain Naturalist

As boy and as man, Enos Mills (1870-1922) lived a remarkable mountain life. From boyhood on, his bond with mountains and wilderness, especially the Estes Park area, inspired him to overcome serious illness and the lack of formal education, money, or influential family to become a successful peaker, writer, naturalist, businessman, and the driving force behind the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Storyteller, outdoorsman, and author of the new biography Enos Mills: Rocky Mountain Naturalist, John Stansfield presents a one-man performance re-enacting key moments in the life of Mills. Following the performance, presented in first-person, Chautauqua style, the audience is invited to learn more about Mills in a question-and-answer session.

Tuesday, Oct 11 7 pm

SC's Public Lands At Risk Slide Show Tour: A slide presentation and photos that will feature: scenic places in Alaska, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico that are under threat from oil and gas development. Federal government attacks on democracy and citizen participation in public lands rulemaking will also be detailed. These policies affect public lands across America. The meeting is public.

(Continued on page 2)

Congressman Joel Hefley (R-CO) introduced his long-awaited legislative proposal for a Browns Canyon Wilderness Area at a public forum on August 29 in Salida. Since 2004, Hefley and his staff have expressed interest in legislation that would add Browns Canyon to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Recognizing the natural values of this area, an Arkansas Valley citizens group, the Friends of Browns Canyon Wilderness (www.browncanyonwilderness.org), has been working for several years to see it preserved.

Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) has included Browns Canyon and many other wild lands in her state-wide wilderness bill for a number of years, though it has yet to see congressional action. Wilderness supporters hope that Hefley's interest in a separate bill including only Browns Canyon will help assure its passage.

Significant progress has been made during the last several months to ensure that this area is protected for future generations. In several recent meetings, the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and local citizens met to discuss the wilderness proposal and work out details regarding boundary issues, prior to presenting their findings to Hefley. Both the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service manage Browns Canyon, which is located in the San Isabel National Forest and the Royal Gorge BLM Resource Area. Many local groups and diverse interests have expressed their desire to see this area designated, including the Chaffee County Commissioners, the Arkansas River Outfitters Association, the Buffalo Peaks Back Country Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition, and others.

Browns Canyon is a pristine area of rugged canyons where streams have cut steep gulches through the pinkish granite and metamorphic rock leading down to the Arkansas River. While the Arkansas

River itself is not part of the proposed wilderness area, it flows near the area's western boundary. The elevation of the proposed wilderness ranges from 7,300 feet near the river to 10,000 feet along the eastern boundary near Aspen Ridge. Pinyon-juniper forest dominates the arid lands along the Arkansas. The vegetation changes dramatically as elevation increases, giving way to Douglas fir, ponderosa and lincor pine, and the stands of aspen for which Aspen Ridge is named. Higher elevations afford magnificent views of the 13,000 and 14,000-foot peaks of the Sawatch Range to the west. Mountain lion, mule deer, bighorn, and numerous bird species inhabit the area. The proposed Browns Canyon Wilderness Area is located in Chaffee County, between Salida and Buena Vista, and is part of the southern Mosquito Range.

Building a public record of support for Browns Canyon is very important at this stage of the legislative process. Please take a moment to send a note to Cong. Hefley by September 25. (Though not as timely, letters after that date will be accepted.) Tell him how you feel about protecting Browns Canyon. Your letter can make a significant difference!

Send letters to:
The Honorable Joel Hefley Please also CC: Michael Kunkel
104 S. Cascade Ave., Suite 105 Friends of Browns Canyon Wilderness
Colorado Springs, CO 80903 417 W. 2nd St.
719-520-0055 Salida, CO 81201 or email:
mkunk@amigo.net

For more information please contact Lisa Smith at lisa@cecenviro.org or (303)405-6707 or see Cong. Hefley's website at www.house.gov/apps/list/press/co05_hefley/pr050805.html

See Outings for October 1 Browns Canyon day-hike information.

We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope. — author Wallace Stegner

**Call for Volunteers:
A Walk through Nature 2005**

Have you always wanted to donate a few hours to the Pikes Peak Group, but just haven't found the right opportunity? Do you like art and meeting artists? Well, consider volunteering for the upcoming *A Walk Through Nature* art show. We need volunteers to help the Show Manager, Jason Zacharias, receive the art on September 7, 8, and 9, from 2-9 P.M. Can you volunteer for a couple of hours? Also, we need volunteers the night of the show, September 16th, 4:30-9 P.M., to help with registration. If you can donate a couple of hours, please contact Jane Ard-Smith (520-5381 or jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com).

YOUR CONTACTS		
Chair	Jane Ard-Smith	520-5381
Vice-Chair	John Stansfield	(303) 660-5849
Conservation Chair	Jim Lockhart	385-0045
Secretary	Marcia Thompson	MarciaThompson1@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Judy Schulman	576-3366
Outings Co-Chairs	Kirby Hughes Jim Lockhart	685-3019 385-0045
Membership	Dave Bryan	499-3283
Chapter Delegate	Dave Bryan	499-3283
Program Chair	LeAnna DeAngelo	leanna.deangelo@asu.edu 481-0085
Political Chair	Larry Skiffington	685-9365
Volunteer Coordinator	Kirby Hughes	685-3019
TIMBERLINES Editor	Heather Preston	488-3061
Newsletter submissions	Send email to:	Astrophysig@bigfoot.com

Chair's Corner

by Jane Ard-Smith, PPG Chair

The summer has been a whirlwind of activity for the Pikes Peak group (PPG). And it looks like it won't slow down any time soon. On the fundraising front, we've been busy helping Sherry Moldenhauer and Bob Dyer plan a benefit art show, *A Walk Through Nature*. Opening night is September 16th and I hope you'll make plans to join us. We have over 65 artists in the show, exhibiting over 250 pieces. Tickets for the opening night reception are only \$5 in advance. Shortly thereafter, on November 8th, John Fielder will present a slide show of his new book, *Colorado 1870-2000, Volume II*. We hope these two fundraising events will put the PPG on firm financial footing for 2006.

On a more substantive note, you may have read in the local newspapers that the

Pueblo County District Attorney filed a notice of intent to sue the City of Colorado Springs and Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) over the sewage spills in Fountain Creek. What you may not know is that the Sierra Club also filed a notice of intent to sue under the Clean Water Act. Although this effort is being spearheaded by our fellow members from the Sangre de Cristo Group, the PPG is supporting the effort. Our goal is to ensure that the City and CSU take aggressive action to fix the problems that periodically result in raw sewage pouring into Fountain Creek.

On a more positive note, I recently attended a Public Advisory Group meeting for Aeroflex, a company that researches and develops custom microelectronics for aerospace and other purposes. Located

near Centennial and Garden of the Gods, Aeroflex is one of five Colorado companies chosen to participate in an Environmental Management System Permit Pilot Program. The pilot program was established in 2004 by the Colorado General Assembly to test a systematic, cross media, outcome based permit system.

As part of its participation, Aeroflex has developed a community involvement and communication plan – in essence, a plan for communicating with the community and other interested entities. If you live near the Aeroflex facility, I encourage you to learn more about the company and what it is doing to continually improve its environmental performance (contact Sue Crane-Jennings, 594-8151, sue.crane-jennings@aeroflex.com).

(Meetings Continued from page 1)

"Americans are blessed with the opportunity to be effective stewards of Creation. Our natural heritage is being harmed. There is a need and a means for citizens to act," says the Sierra Club's Clayton Daughenbaugh, who will be offering the presentation.

Conservation and ExCom Meetings

Tuesday, Sept 20 6:30pm
Tuesday, Oct 18 6:30pm
Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., COS

All members are invited to participate in our monthly "business meeting."

Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:

Thursday, Sept 15 6-9pm
Thursday, Oct 13 6-9pm

Take action to promote and protect wildlands in our region. The work of CCWC involves exploring and researching wild candidate areas and developing wilderness legislation for possible Congressional action. For more information, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorstan@bewellnet.com

Timberlines Deadline: OCT 7 (early!)

(Continued on page 3)

Join Us For "A Walk Through Nature 2005"

On Friday, September 16th, make plans to attend the Opening Night Reception for *A Walk Through Nature*, an all-arts art show benefiting the Pikes Peak Group. The evening's festivities begin at 5:00 PM at Optical Reverb Gallery, located at Paragon Culinary School/Cedars Jazz Club, 3125 Sinton Road. Tickets are only \$5 in advance and may be purchased at Optical Reverb Gallery, Mountain Chalet (226 N. Tejon Street), Elements Art Gallery (2616 W. Colorado Avenue), or Phototroph (16 Ruxton Avenue, Manitou Springs). You may also purchase tickets online at www.awalkthroughnature.com.

Why should you attend opening night? Well, you can purchase local art, support the Pikes Peak Group financially (a portion of all art sales benefits the PPG), and find out more about the Sierra Club. You'll also

be entered in the drawing for fabulous door prizes, including gift certificates for the Black Bear Restaurant and culinary classes at Paragon Culinary School. Finally, you'll be able to learn more about our sponsors: Mountain Chalet, Black Bear Restaurant, Paragon Culinary School, North American Nature Photography Association, Heritage Realty, Snappy Print, Majestic Design, Team Telecycle, and the Toilet Paper Newspaper. What better way to spend a Friday evening?

Want to help with the show? Consider becoming an art show sponsor. Sponsorships start at just \$50. See www.awalkthroughnature.com for more information about sponsorships, or contact the show producer, Sherry Moldenhauer, at 719-660-3423.

Pikes Peak Group's Sierra Club Store is OPEN!

Have you checked out the Pikes Peak Group's website lately? If not, visit <http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg/PPGstore.html> to check out our new online store. In addition to T-Shirts and organic teas and coffee, you can now purchase prints from two local photographers who are also Sierra Club members: Bill Beaudin and Sherry Moldenhauer. We are also offering books by Terry Grosz, a former conservation law enforcement officer. The best part is: you can complete the entire transaction online!

Save the Date – John Fielder has a New Book!

Mark your calendars now – John Fielder will be unveiling his new book, *Colorado 1870-2000, Volume II* on **Tuesday, November 8th**, 7:00 PM, Great Hall of All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 North Tejon.. In this continuation of the first bestselling volume, John Fielder further explores the ravages of time as he retakes W.H.

Jackson's historic photographs with precision. The book contains 108 all-new photo pairs along with more insightful text about each area. As always, we'll be offering John's books and calendars for sale, as well as Sierra Club calendars. Check the PPG website for more information (<http://www.rmc.sierraclub.org/ppg/index.html>) or check out the November-December *Timberlines*.

PPG Outings

Events are in or from Colorado Springs. A donation of \$1 per member per outing is requested to help our Sierra Club chapter defray costs. Added charge where noted.

September 11, Sunday 9 am – 1 pm Monument Valley Walk

This Outing will provide light exercise on the in-town Monument Valley Trail; learn something about our city's parks! We'll meet at a downtown location to begin the walk, and travel 4 – 6 miles with our distance determined by the desires folks in group. This will be an easy to moderate walk; elev gain could be 100 feet, or more. Bring water, a snack or lunch, good boots, sunblock and raingear. Singles are also invited to attend! Contact Spencer Johnston at 719-649-3837 by Saturday evening, Sept, 10, for information and sign up.

September 24, Saturday Call for time Wild Ten Educational and Informational Hike #3: Landscape Photography

This hike is the third in a series, offered by the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition (in coordination with the Sierra Club), to creatively explore several Wild Ten proposed wilderness areas. Each Outing highlights a different educational and fun recreational activity. This month's Outing is guided by an experienced mentor on landscape photography, Andy DeNaray. *Donations supporting CCWC's wilderness protection work are requested of participants; this is not an official Sierra Club Outing.* For time, location, and registration information, contact either Lorraine Streckfus, 719-471-7787 (streckfusl@pcisys.net).

October 1, Saturday Call for time Browns Canyon Proposed Wilderness Full-day hike

Come experience fall colors on Aspen Ridge, the high eastern portion of what may become Colorado's newest wilderness area. Learn about the area's natural history and the process of wilderness designation. Experience wild solitude on this moderately strenuous, six mile hike with 1,000 foot elevation gain. Some participants with 4-wheel drive vehicles needed. Co-sponsored with the Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition. For more information and to register, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorstan@bewellnet.com by 6 PM, September 30.

October 1, 2 All day Pikes Peak Workdays

Join Pikes Peak Group and the Rocky Mountain Field Institute to help repair damage caused by erosion and sediment from the Pikes Peak Highway. Work will involve a short walk to the project site, where we will construct sediment retention structures. Tools and instruction will be provided. Participants should bring lunch, water, leather or canvas work gloves (if you don't have them, they will be provided) and clothing and boots or shoes suitable for moderately heavy work. Call Jim Lockhart at 385-0045 for details and to sign up.

October 15, Saturday 9 am – 1 pm Intemann Trail Hike

The hike is a moderate 5-mile R/T local area hike at the 6500 ft elevation, and has a 500 ft elev gain/loss. Great views of Manitou Springs; learn about local wildlife and local flora. Bring water, a snack, good boots or shoes, and raingear ; gloves are recommended. Singles are invited to attend! For details, call Spencer Johnston at 649-3837.

3rd Annual Quiet Commotion coming in October

The Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance is hosting the 3rd annual Quiet Commotion October 14-16, 2005. This year, the Commotion will be held in beautiful Crestone.

The 2005 Commotion is all about learning how to keep the backcountry pristine. We will learn about how off-road vehicles and quiet recreation are being managed in our National Forests and public lands from experts, including land managers and scientists, using a series of field trips to beautiful locales in the San Luis Valley as a backdrop for our discussions.

Like-minded people gather Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon to have fun while learning new skills and exchanging ideas. Saturday night we will have a cocktail hour with land managers and community leaders from the San Luis Valley and some rousing entertainment.

To register or get more information, contact Aaron Clark at 303-324-7031 or aaron_clark@tws.org.

SIERRA SINGLES GROUP SPONSORED HAPPENINGS

ALL Pikes Peak Group members, regardless of marital status, are welcome at the following events. Events are in, or leave from, Colorado Springs and all area codes are 719 unless otherwise noted.

A donation of \$1 per member per outing is requested to help our Sierra Club chapter defray costs of offering you these activities.

Sept. 25, Sunday 9:00 am - 2 pm Sunday Catamount Trail Hike

A Sierra Singles moderate to difficult hike, 3.6 miles RT with a 2000 foot ele. gain and some nice views of the valley along the trail. We will also hike through the Garden of Eden, hunt for raspberries along the way and learn something about our local water storage system. We may stop for lunch afterwards. RSVP to Dave Harmer at 597-3996 by Saturday evening.

Oct. 23, Sunday 9 am – 3:30 pm Emerald Valley Hike

An easy Sierra Singles hike, 5.7 miles RT with a 970 foot elev gain. We'll carpool to the site. Pack a lunch for the trail, and come and learn a little about the out-of-doors! RSVP to Dave Harmer at 719-597-3996 by Saturday evening.

(Continued from page 2)

The Winds of Change – Timberlines

Beginning with this month's issue, we will be using a mail house to deliver the Timberlines to our members. What does that mean for you? Well, if all goes well, probably nothing – you'll still receive the *Timberlines* in a timely fashion. For the folks who work behind the scenes to get the newsletter to press, however, it means less stress and anxiety. It will cost the Pikes Peak Group a bit more to use a mail house, but using volunteers to fold, tape, label, and mail the newsletter has become a large job. Our hope is that by using a mail house, we will free up our precious volunteers to work on more substantive issues.

One of the ways you can help is by opting to receive the newsletter electronically. Simply send an e-mail to jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com to get started!

Sierra Club House Concert

Peace & Love & Jigs & Reels, a Celtic Duo out of Louisville will be performing a benefit house concert at 6:30 pm on the 24th of September in Colorado Springs. Call or Email Dave Bryan for details & RSVP. 499-3283 or dlbsierra@sunwest.net.