

What's the most important thing you will do for the environment this fall? Being politically minded, my initial answer is to vote in the November 7th election. Here in Colorado, we will be choosing a new Governor, new state legislators, and new congressional representatives. Our choices will help shape Colorado's future.

If you're not so politically minded, perhaps your answer is to volunteer for your favorite environmental organization - maybe even the Sierra Club. By spending just a couple of hours making telephone calls, staffing an information table at an event, or serving as a Water Sentinel for Fountain Creek, you can make a tangible difference in Colorado's future.

If you don't have time to volunteer, maybe your answer is to make a financial contribution to your favorite environmental cause. For just a few dollars a month, you can help us carry out the Sierra Club's mission - to promote conservation of the natural environment by influencing public policy decisions.

If you can't make a financial contribution, perhaps your answer is to learn more about an environmental issue. Whether you are interested in global warming, federal wilderness protection, or the city's water conservation plan, educating yourself about the issue is the single most important thing you can do. In my experience, it's the only thing that spurs action.

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cause of our consuming and polluting ways. Included: a first look at clips from a documentary Dave is producing on the subject.

**No December General meeting, instead:
Tuesday, December 5 7 pm**

John Fielder Talk/Slide Show
Come join award-winning Colorado photographer and environmentalist John Fielder for a slide show and talk about his first book just for children. See article, page 1 in this newsletter.

Conservation and ExCom Meetings

Tuesday, Oct 17 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov 21 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec 19 6:30 pm

Beidleman Environmental Center, 740 W. Caramillo St., Colorado Springs. All members are welcome to our monthly "business meeting."

Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition Meetings:

Thursday, October 12 7-9 pm

Thursday, November 9 7-9 pm

Take action into the new year 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 jorcstan@juno.com

Timberlines Deadline: Saturday, Dec 9

One of the ways you can help our local group use our limited funds more effectively is by opting to receive the newsletter **electronically**. Simply send an email to jane.ard-smith@lexisnexis.com to get started!

All Eyes are on Colorado

by Dave Bryan, Political Chair

I just left a political event at the Ritz where along with the candidate, visiting congressman and over 200 in attendance was a CNN camera crew. All eyes are indeed focused on Colorado and races in the Pikes Peak region.

Pikes Peak Group's Annual Sierra Club Calendar Sale

Once again, the Pikes Peak Group will be offering Sierra club calendars for sale. The calendars will be available at our November general meeting, but we'll have a sneak preview at the October general meeting. Prices remain the same as last year - wall calendars are \$11, engagement calendars are \$12. We have a limited supply this year, so get them early. Call Jane Ard-Smith, 520-5381, to arrange a delivery.

Welcome Our New Membership Chair

We are pleased to welcome Jane Madden as the Pikes Peak Group's new Membership Chair! The Membership Chair serves a vital role in our organization - she not only helps recruit new members, she also makes initial contact once folks join the Sierra Club. She is the first person many of you will meet. Welcome Jane - and thanks for taking on this challenge. Members, especially new ones, may call Jane at 559-3839.

Choking on Growth: Our Misguided Quest for Prosperity

Global warming, fish unsafe to eat, shrinking water supplies, species extinction, dismal air quality even in our national parks. These are just a few of the signs we're living beyond the carrying capacity of spaceship Earth. Local filmmaker Dave Gardner decided recycling and conserving just weren't enough, so he is producing a documentary that examines what he feels is the root cause of our consuming and polluting ways. Politicians promise economic growth and job creation, yet these are difficult to achieve without increasing levels of population and consumption. Is our prosperity strategy unsustainable? Dave promises we'll be the first to get a sneak preview of excerpts from the film - at our November 14 General Meeting. Come hear Dave's theories about economic growth, and participate in an interactive session to help guide distribution and marketing plans for the documentary.

Dave Gardner is a Colorado Springs native who's taken an interest in local sustainability issues since returning to the Pikes Peak region in 1993. His interest led him to found SaveTheSprings (www.savethesprings.org), a local grass roots organization promoting sustainability and quality of life in the Pikes Peak region. Dave has been an outspoken critic of local economic and land development policies he feels ignore the carrying capacity of our state. You may have read some of Dave's many editorial pieces published in local papers, heard his guest commentary on KRCC's Western Skies, or read his name in local news coverage of growth issues. Dave welcomes your input: dave@visions-west.net

The last 6 years proves again that it really does matter who gets elected, that all candidates' are not alike and that not voting really does have an impact on public policy. In Colorado we have the opportunity to show the rest of the country that we are in fact an intelligent, moderate electorate. Radical, extreme and intolerant are labels

that do not serve our region well. Changing this perception will take every one of us to vote. If more people make their voices heard this election we all win; even those who don't agree with us on issues such as the environment, conservation, war and peace. The checks and balances our democracy requires to function fairly need to come from us, the voters. — DB