

Volume 2009 Issue 2 - March 31, 2009

Don't miss our April 8 Member Meeting and Program next week and please don't forget to Vote in the Fort Collins election!

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1. Fort Collins City Council Election Endorsements

The Sierra Club Poudre Canyon Group and Rocky Mountain Chapter have endorsed the following candidates for Fort Collins City Council:

Kelly Ohlson - District 5 (incumbent) - a local environmental hero on many fronts for 30 years, Kelly recently received Etown's national E-chievement award for more than 2 decades of work protecting open space and natural areas in Fort Collins and Larimer County.

www.kellyohlson2009.com

Ben Manvel - District 1 (incumbent) - a very strong supporter of environmental issues in his first term, he is liaison to Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board; an avid bicyclist who headed up the effort to retain the City's Bike Coordinator Position. <http://www.benmanvel.com/>

Dale Lockwood - District 3 - Serves on Larimer County Environmental Advisory Board (since 2003, Chair since 2005). Scientifically evaluated uranium mining near Fort Collins and opposes the project; scientist and instructor at CSU. <http://www.dale2009.com/>

Tom Griggs - Mayor - a long-time Sierra Club member, strongly supports local environmental efforts including saving the Poudre River from the NISP (Glade Reservoir) proposal. www.tomgriggsformayor.com

Our local environmental legacy depends on election of our endorsed candidates to:

- Protect the Poudre River/oppose Glade Reservoir
- Support water conservation
- Promote renewable energy at the city electric utility
- Support multi-modal transportation
- Preserve open space programs
- Oppose uranium mining near Fort Collins

Please support these candidates any way you can, but especially with your vote. Ballots must be RECEIVED by next Tuesday 7pm. You might get away with mailing them that day, but you are safest if you mail it by this weekend, or drop it off in person by the deadline.

2. Poudre Valley REA Election Results

Congratulations to Roger Alexander for winning election to the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, unseating a long-time incumbent for the purpose of promoting renewable energy. Alexander was one of our three endorsed challengers fielded by the Poudre Valley Pioneers organization (see <http://www.pvpioneers.org/home.html>). See related articles at <http://www.pvrea.com/about/2009election.htm> and http://www.northfortynews.com/News/20090310_PVREA-electionGreenDebate.htm.

3. President Obama signs Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness bill

President Obama signed into law March 30 a bill designating nearly all of Rocky Mountain National Park as a wilderness area, following over 30 years of work by local and national advocacy groups to do so. See more information at <http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20090331/NEWS01/903310308/-1/NEWSFRONT2>.

4. Upcoming Events

April 7, 2009 (Tuesday) - Fort Collins City Election

This is the final day to drop off your mail-in ballot and help preserve our local environmental legacy.

April 8, 2009 (Wednesday) - "Black-footed ferrets: the return of a native" and General Member Meeting.

In addition to our regular business, Sarah Bexell, PhD, Education Specialist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service will present a program on black-footed ferret conservation efforts. The black-footed ferret is one of the most endangered mammals in North America, yet many Americans are unaware that they exist let alone that scientists have been working for over 25 years for their recovery. Black-footed ferrets were thought to be extinct twice. The second time prompted biologists to capture the last remaining 18 individuals to breed them in captivity in hopes of saving the species from extinction. Five captive breeding facilities manage approximately 280 individuals in captivity and as of fall 2008, approximately 800 were surviving in the wild. Many obstacles to their recovery have been successfully addressed, including captive breeding management and reintroduction strategies. Recovery is within reach, however, we still have a long way to go. Come learn about the struggle to save this charismatic, native species. 7:30pm. Fort Collins Harmony Public Library Community Room (at Front Range Community College, SE corner of Harmony & Shields).

April 11, 2009 (Saturday) - Rocky Mountain Chapter Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting.

The Poudre Canyon Group hosts the quarterly meeting of Sierra Club leaders from around the state. Please call or email Mark Easter to volunteer to help with food, set-up, or overnight accommodations. Meeting location TBD. 8am-5pm.

April 11-12, 2009 (Saturday-Sunday) - Wildlife restoration on the Pawnee National Grasslands.

Residents of Larimer County are invited to join Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to restore a half mile of Willow Creek, right in the heart of the Pawnee National Grasslands. Early spring is a wonderful time to experience the awakening of the prairie and the beginning of the spring bird migration. No experience is necessary to help restore this critical streamside wildlife habitat. Volunteers will be fed each day, tools will be provided, and volunteer crew leaders will guide you in the restoration effort. This project will commemorate the grand opening of the Fort Collins office of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. With the opening of the Fort Collins office, WRV will provide leadership and natural resource trainings for local residents and create additional opportunities for residents to engage in restoration and conservation of the public lands they love. For a full list of projects with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, please visit our website at

<http://www.wlrv.org/>. To sign up for the Pawnee Grasslands Riparian Restoration Project on April 11-12, send an e-mail to info@wlrv.org, call 303-543-1411, or sign-up on our website at <http://www.wlrv.org/>. We hope to see you in the wild this year. In the arid West, healthy riparian areas (lush vegetated streamside areas) are essential to the survival of 80% of resident wildlife species. Due to centuries of human use, many riparian areas throughout the grasslands of Colorado have been denuded of their most important feature, a diverse tree and shrub component. Volunteers will help restore the riparian area along Willow Creek to benefit migratory birds and other wildlife, and enhance habitat for the following threatened and rare species: Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, Northern Leopard Frog, and Lewis's Woodpecker. Nearly a dozen other sensitive and rare species will be benefited by this project. Volunteers like you make this happen. Join us today!

April 20, 2009 (Monday) - Monthly Leadership Meeting.

Join our Executive Committee and other group leaders to discuss and plan Conservation, Membership, Fundraising, Communications and Political activities. Open to all members. 7-9pm. John Gascoyne's house, 718 W Mountain Ave. Contact: Will Walters 970-690-3543. Check our web site for location changes.

May 6, 2009 (Wednesday) - "Beetle Busters: replanting trees to combat beetle kill" and General Member Meeting.

In addition to our regular business, Alan Apt, Poudre Canyon Group Conservation Chair and a TBD speaker from the National Forest Service will present a program on a potential campaign for forest recovery and carbon sequestration following beetle kill that is decimating our Colorado forests. Come learn about this exciting campaign. 7:00pm. Fort Collins Main Public Library Community Room, 201 Peterson Street.

May 18, 2009 (Monday) - Monthly Leadership Meeting.

Join our Executive Committee and other group leaders to discuss and plan Conservation, Membership, Fundraising, Communications and Political activities. Open to all members. 7-9pm. Location: TBD. Contact: Will Walters 970-690-3543. Check our web site for location changes.

June 3, 2009 (Wednesday) - "Water Conservation in Fort Collins" and General Member Meeting.

In addition to our regular business, Lori D'Audney, Water Conservation Specialist, Fort Collins Utilities will present a program on water conservation campaigns in Fort Collins. Time and location TBD.

5. Special Thanks

Special thanks to Abiah Shaffer for coordinating this year's March Appeal phone bank, to Dr Patti Headley for donating massage and chiropractic to phone bank participants, to Attorney Mark Hanson for donating use of his office, to all the Volunteers who donated their time to make calls, and to all the Members who donated money for our local conservation efforts.

All your generous contributions are inspiring!

6. Volunteer Needed to help with this Newsletter

Want to put your talents to work for a good cause? We need help with getting this newsletter out on a regular basis. Collecting information, writing, formatting, editing, proofreading, extracting the latest member email list and emailing are all pieces of the puzzle. Any piece you can do would be greatly appreciated. Contact Will Walters (970-690-3543 or will.walters@rmc.sierraclub.org) or John Gascoyne (970-221-4316 or john.gascoyne@rmc.sierraclub.org) if you can help.

Thank you, again, for being a part of the Sierra Club. We hope you will become actively involved in the Poudre Canyon Group!

Find group contacts, volunteer opportunities, and other information on our web site:

www.rockymtn.sierraclub.org/pcg

