



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good



New rafting equipment is put to the test in the Horsethief Canyon section of the Colorado River

*Exploring the outdoors by river
Colorado Canyons expands outdoor education program with grant for rafting gear*

Since Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) launched their Catalpa Camp along the banks of the Colorado River last year, one of their biggest expenses has been paying for-profit rafting companies to bring under-served youth down the river to their outdoor education learning site.

Now that the camp site is completed with platforms, tents and learning stations, CCA is certified to run their own trips to the camp and needs funding to purchase rafting and other equipment.

Chamberlin Family Giving Fund Outdoor enthusiasts establish a new designated fund



Barb and Ed Chamberlin are biking enthusiasts, pictured here at the Maroon Bells. This spring and summer, Ed is competing in international bicycle races in Greece and Italy.

Long-time Grand Junction residents and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, Barb and Ed Chamberlin have established a new designated fund at our Community Foundation to support their favorite local organizations. These include many environmental organizations like the Colorado West Land Trust (formerly Mesa Land Trust),

Our Community Foundation provided a \$25,000 grant to help purchase the rafts, oars and personal flotation devices to make this program a reality.



[Colorado West Land Trust](#)
Protecting open space in Ouray County

Over the past several years, the regional land trust - a new partnership between Mesa Land Trust and the Black Canyon Land Trust - has been working steadily to conserve more open space in Montrose and Ouray Counties. Recently **the Dave and Mary Wood Fund** made a generous multi-year grant commitment to Colorado West Land Trust to conserve wildlife habitat and scenic open space outside of Ridgway, CO.

[Charitable Giving Strategies in the Age of Tax Reform](#)
Donor-advised funds, an attractive option for donors who want to itemize charitable donations

2018 is the first implement-

RiversEdge West (formerly the Tamarisk Coalition), Colorado Riverfront Foundation and Conservation Colorado, as well as other organizations like the Center for the Arts and the Museum of the West.

A Community Foundation board member, Barb explains, "The Community Foundation makes it easy to facilitate our annual charitable giving. We give one stock gift and instructions for how to distribute the funds and they take care of the rest. We appreciate that their staff knows what local nonprofit organizations are doing and can provide ideas for projects for our consideration."

The Chamberlins have a strong commitment to environment-friendly programs and sustainable business practices. Established in 1979, Ed's architecture firm, Chamberlin and Associates, specializes in designing resource-efficient buildings. Chamberlin has designed local nonprofit projects like Grand Valley Catholic Outreach's administration building, St. Benedict and St. Martin's Place for homeless veterans, building cost-saving energy efficiencies into the design to save long-term operating costs.

The Chamberlins are passionate about preserving Western Colorado outdoor spaces for current and future generations to enjoy. They are also founding donors of our new Environmental Stewardship and Outdoor Lifestyles Fund, see companion story.

[New Environmental Stewardship Fund Established](#)
Promoting outdoor lifestyle and local landscapes

ation year of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. While it is hard to know all the impacts the new legislation will have on charitable giving, the Center for Philanthropy at the University of Indiana projects that the percentage of Americans who itemize on their tax returns - currently 33% of the total population - will shrink to about 5%. What this means is that donors who used to itemize their charitable donations may fall below the new threshold of the standard deduction and will not itemize.

One strategy for donors who do want to itemize their charitable donations is to consider "bunching" or "batching" their donations - giving a larger amount in one year in order to be able to exceed the standard deduction. Donors could establish a donor-advised fund at our Community Foundation, make one large gift every two or three years, and then spend their funds through donor-advised grants over several years.

Setting up a donor-advised fund is quick and easy. For more information, contact Kristin Lynch at 243-3767 or klynch@wc-cf.org.



Our Community Foundation's President and Executive



Two couples have established a new endowment to support environmental stewardship in western Colorado. Broad in scope, the fund will provide grants for the restoration, preservation, protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems and environments that are important for the health, outdoor recreation and quality of daily life for the people of western Colorado.

One of the founding donors of the new fund is David Miller, an avid hiker, skier and chair of Alpine Bank's Green Team. "In my day job, I advocate for sustainable business practices like recycling, cost-efficient lighting and new building construction that saves my company money and are also good for the environment. So many people who choose to live in western Colorado do so for the lifestyle. We want to take care of our environment so that western Colorado continues to be a desirable place to live."

Examples of projects that may be funded include those that preserve and protect open space for outdoor recreation or wildlife habitat; improve air and water quality; promote environmental friendly practices like recycling and alternative energy; encourage outdoor recreation; and educate different constituents about our special landscapes, geology and river systems.

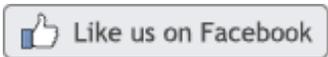
Our Community Foundation is pleased to see this fund established. In any given year, only about 1% of our grants support open space preservation and outdoor recreation projects. We know there are many people who live here because of the beautiful landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities. We hope we can build this fund up to a sizable level and

Director, Anne Wenzel, was recently honored by the Sunrise Rotary Club with the "Heart of Rotary Award" for a non-Rotarian who exemplifies the personal qualities and commitment to community leadership that define Rotarians and their service around the world.



The Western Colorado Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations by the Council on Foundations.

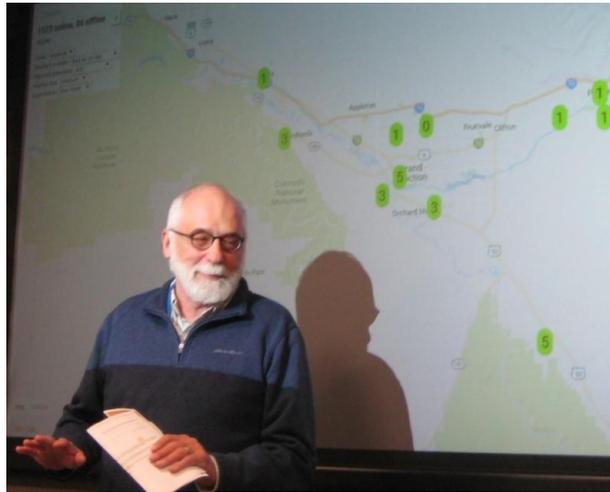
[Visit our Website](#)



be able to support a range of projects that protect and enhance our outdoor lifestyle here in western Colorado.

The new fund hopes to attract a dozen founding donors and will begin making grants in 2019.

Grantee Spotlight: Conservation Colorado and Citizens for Clean Air Monitor Local Air Quality



Bennett Boechenstein presents a map of Purple Air monitor installations across the Grand Valley.

Several of our Community Foundation donors have partnered with Conservation Colorado to support a new initiative that sets up a network of air quality monitors across the Grand Valley. Called Purple Air monitors, the state-of-the-art technology is a simple device that collects real time information about particulates in the air, and feeds that information to a mapping service. Citizens can check the map for information on current air quality levels before heading outside, or to gauge patterns over time.

Dr. David Scott of the Allergy and Asthma Center of Western Colorado has installed a Purple Air monitor on his office building. "We treat a lot of people for allergy and asthma problems. It will be very helpful to have local data related to air quality to better diagnose our patients and prescribe appropriate medication and treatments." Alpine Bank plans to install monitors at all five of its Mesa County bank branches.

A Purple Air monitor costs about \$200 before installation and internet connection. For more information or to purchase a monitor, contact Karen Sjoberg at 970-242-1054 or citizensforcleanairgj@gmail.com.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) for the article in the Daily Sentinel.

Reflections from the Executive Director

Ahhhh Spring! Always such a great time of year to dig out the outdoor wear and find a water bottle for hiking or biking. So many of us enjoy the outdoors here in western Colorado, whether it is walking the dog around the neighborhood, heading to the Monument for a hike or to Fruita for a bike ride, or just sitting outside on a bench soaking up some sun before the intense days of summer are upon us. For those of us who moved to western Colorado from a large city, our outdoor lifestyles and recreation opportunities are one of the greatest pleasures of living here - something to be cherished, enjoyed and preserved.

-- Anne Wenzel
