

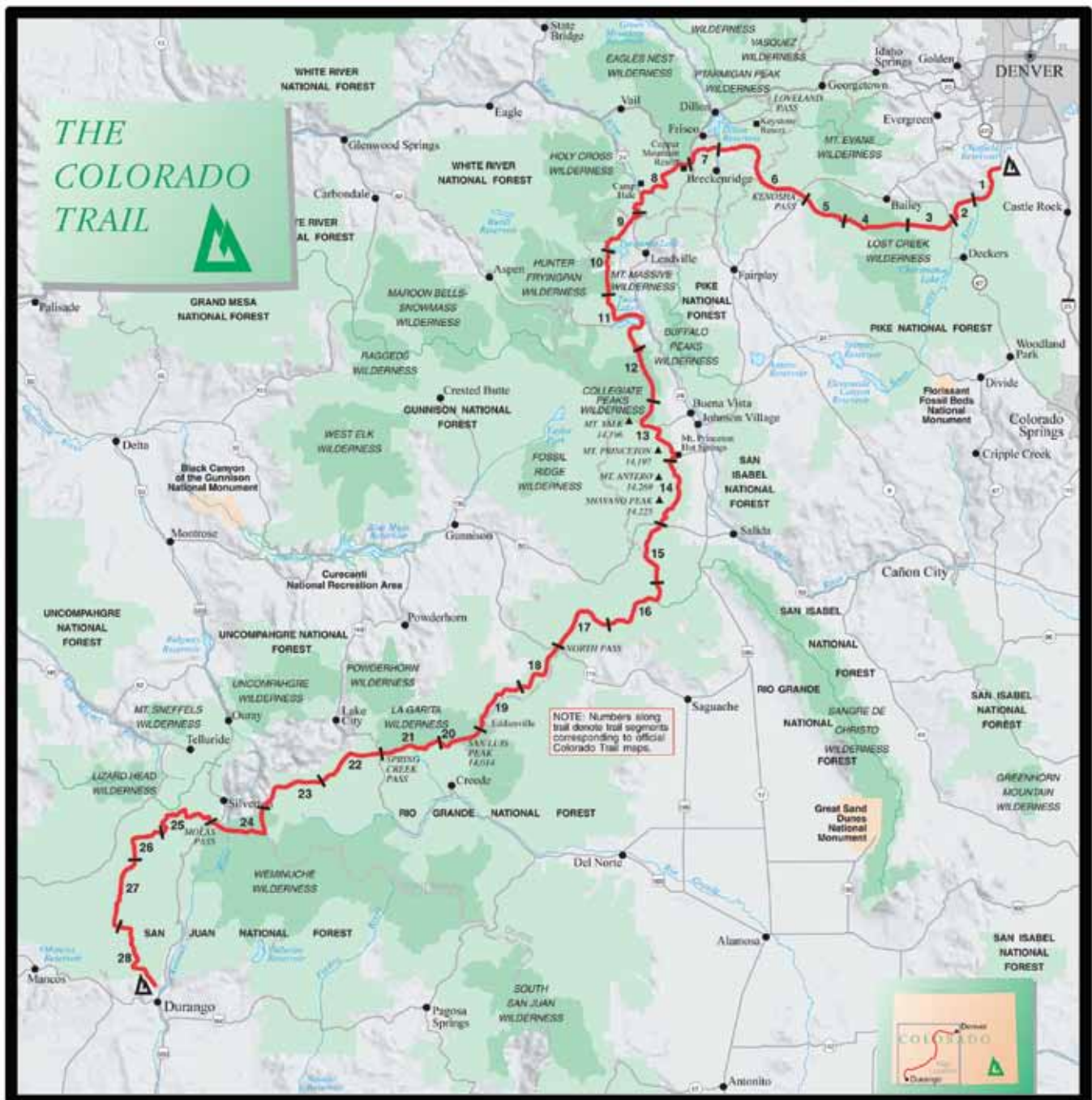
TREAD LINES

news from

The Colorado Trail Foundation

Spring 2009

The Colorado Trail: 500 Miles Between Denver and Durango



The Colorado Trail is built and maintained by volunteers, funded primarily through private contributions. We could use your help. The Colorado Trail Foundation, 710 10th St #210, Golden, CO 80401, (303) 384-3729. www.ColoradoTrail.org

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Tread Lines is the newsletter of The Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published two to three times a year.

The Colorado Trail® is 500 miles long in the Rocky Mountains between Denver and Durango. It has been described as one of the best trails *anywhere*, one of the most scenic and among the best maintained. The Trail is a favorite of enthusiasts who hike, mountain bike and ride horseback.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation funded almost entirely by private sector individuals and companies. Our mission is to keep The Colorado Trail in good condition, maintaining and improving it with the help of many volunteers. We recruit and train volunteers, provide leadership, organize The Colorado Trail ("CT") work crews, supply and support the crews, and manage the Adopt-A-Trail program to accomplish annual maintenance on the entire Trail. We also conduct week-long supported treks on the CT, offer educational classes at our mountain cabin, and distribute information about The Colorado Trail and Trail Crews. We work in cooperation with public agencies. Donations are needed, much appreciated and tax deductible.

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Spring is underway and bits of warm weather have gotten us all excited about summer activities. Trail season is right around the corner. We've begun to hear that some of The Colorado Trail segments near Denver are melted off and there are portions already passable. Inquiries about the Trail are arriving with increasing frequency.

There's a great buzz of activity here at the office of The Colorado Trail Foundation in Golden. Much of the excitement is coming from you CTF volunteers and began around February 1st when this year's Trail Crew schedule hit your mailboxes. CTF Board Members and Operations volunteers were optimistic about Crew participation this year, as always, because the Colorado Trail Crews are popular and well attended. But our optimism this year was "guarded" because of the general economic outlook and all.

Response to this year's Crews has been overwhelming. Volunteers in great numbers have submitted their registrations. At the time of this writing, seven of sixteen Crews are already full and others nearly full. You'll read about this year's Crews on page 4 and see the schedule of Crews for which we still need volunteers. We encourage you to review your calendar and consider joining us.

Volunteers are equally active with our Adopt-A-Trail Program. We've heard from a number of Adopters this year and many are planning their outings and securing commitments from helper volunteers. Out of 60 AAT sections, there are only about 3 where we might need an Adopter. Details are on page 6. Maybe you'll consider taking on responsibility for an Adoption; we could sure use your help.

In this year, the 35th Anniversary of The Colorado Trail, it is notable that CTF volunteers remain highly dedicated. We thank each and every one of you. Together, we're preserving The Colorado Trail. ▲



CTF Board Volunteers Give It All

Volunteers on the CTF Board of Directors bring great dedication. Their involvement goes far beyond meetings. They steer the organization and handle a tremendous number of important tasks, leveraging the efforts of our small office staff of two. Board volunteers are listed in the sidebar at the left of this article. We thank them heartily for their contribution.

Suzanne Reed retired from the Board this year. Suzanne's 3 years on the Board followed a full 6 years on staff as Volunteer Coordinator in the CTF office. Suzanne will be greatly missed, but she emailed that, "As you know, the CTF will always be part of my life so keep in touch as I hope to stay involved." She's volunteering on a Trail Crew again this summer and excited.



John Lipe began serving on the CTF Board starting with the February meeting. He's been a CT Crew Leader and Adopter every season since 2003 and also involved in operations. John brings his enthusiasm along with his background in communications, industry business management, Navy Aviator plus fighting wild fires, trails and forest work during college. ▲



Dear Colorado Trail Foundation Volunteers,

Thank you for doing such a good job on The Colorado Trail in Chaffee County between Raspberry Gulch and the intersection with Brown's Creek Trail. The steep trail was full of big rocks and was almost impossible for a horse to navigate. The huge rocks have been moved and there is a nice trail. THANK YOU so much. I am aware that a group of volunteers camped and worked on that segment of the trail. When other work is being done on the trail in the Chaffee County area, I would be glad to volunteer.

—Jeannie Diesslin

Upcoming CT Presentations in April at REI Stores Thru Hiking the CT "Ultra Light" — Planning, Executing, and Trail Life



Please join us. Spend an unusual evening being enlightened by nationally known speaker, John Scott, about his thru hiking adventure on The Colorado Trail in the summer of 2008. **John "Spot" Scott** is a 48-year old corporate CEO who solo-hiked the CT in 24 days. Hear of his trip planning, share his ultra light gear secrets, best segments, logistics, and maximizing the experiential elements! Each participant will get a handout of key information and insider tips. There will also be a demonstration of essential gear, best products, and packing details. John will outline ultra light techniques and discuss the pros and cons. He will share the unique trail sub culture, a paradox of the melding of folks from all walks of life forming one union of the trail community, with guest **Clint "Lint" Bunting**. Any long trail hiker will tell you that these trips transform their lives and John's was no exception. Come hear his amazing journey and unlikely outcomes that can only occur in the world of thru hikers, complete with an engaging slide show and video. This

event is a special presentation to benefit The Colorado Trail Foundation.

A \$5 (or more) donation is encouraged, but optional. The CTF will have information at the event and be on hand to answer questions.

7:00 – 8:30 pm each night:

- Wed. 4/8 REI Denver Flagship
- Tues. 4/14 REI Englewood Park Meadows
- Tues. 4/21 REI Westminster (new store at I-25 & 144th)
- Tues. 4/28 REI Boulder

Just a quick email to let you know I finished hiking the CT. What a great trail! I found the CT to be a perfect mix of everything thru hikers want. Great tread, great townsfolk, and an excellent organization behind it all. Well done volunteers! I'll be moving to CO in a few months and look forward to volunteering myself once I get settled.

—Clint "Lint" Bunting

Leave a Legacy to The Colorado Trail

Many of us have had wonderfully memorable experiences on The Colorado Trail. We've traveled on it and helped care for it. The Trail means a lot to us. It exemplifies what is best about the great outdoors in Colorado. Our goal is for the Trail to remain viable and well maintained for many generations to come.

The Colorado Trail Foundation's *Leave a Legacy Program* helps assure the Trail is sustained in the future. The idea is simple: make The Colorado Trail part of your legacy by leaving a gift to the Foundation in your will. In doing so you'll join others whom we call our "Circle of Friends." Each person in the "Circle of Friends" is taking an important step in keeping the Trail for future generations.

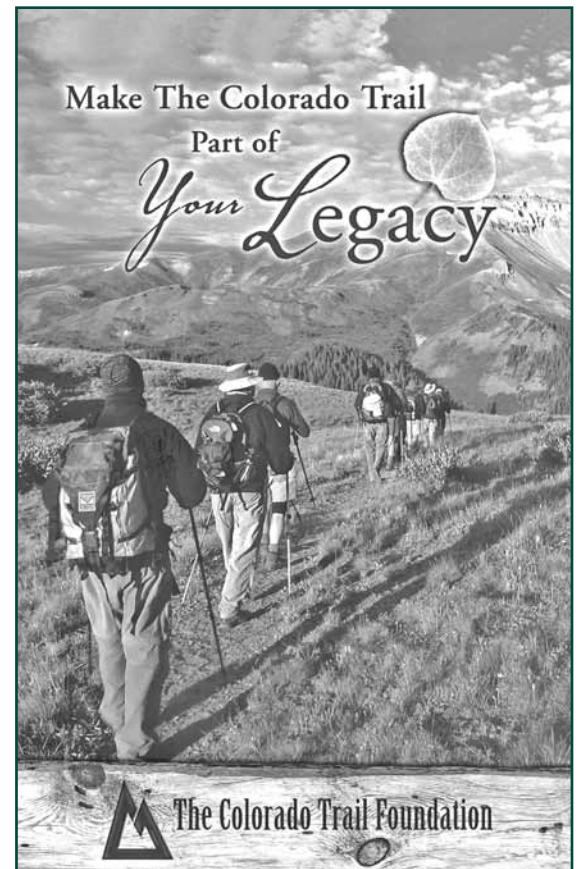
Your attorney or financial advisor can help you set up a charitable gift for the Trail. More information can be obtained at www.ColoradoTrail.org or by contacting the CTF office. Please consider helping with the worthy challenge of keeping The Colorado Trail in perpetuity. ▲

Dear CTF Staff,

Last year I donated to the CTF. This year I am increasing my donation. The main reason for this is due to the way I was treated by one of your trail crews when my son and I together with our llama were at Kenosha Pass.

*Cindy Johnson was the trail boss, who along with her 5 workers showed us such warm hospitality during our 2 day stay at Kenosha Pass. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to each of these wonderful people. So: **Thanks Cindy, Sophie, Rebecca, Tia, Martha and Carol.** You were all responsible for a very pleasant highlight of a great hike last summer.*

—John Hudler



In the following report, CTF Operations Chief **George Miller** describes plans for volunteers to make significant improvements on The Colorado Trail this summer.

Volunteer Trail Crews are being formed to make a long list of improvements along The Colorado Trail this summer. We have scheduled 14 week-long crews and two weekend projects. Work on the CT will range from heavy maintenance to completing two new reroutes on the section below Mt. Elbert.

Merle McDonald and his crew will replace another section of bridge and boardwalk that high runoff in Miners Creek has inundated. This project will be much like the work last summer to replace a section of the Trail on the north fork of Swan River.

An important crew assignment will be near the western end of the CT in Elk Creek Canyon where a rock slide took out a section of the Trail and left a slippery rock face that is difficult to step across. The Trail is impassible for horses. **Ernie Norris** and his crew will work to build a new tread above Elk Creek to allow stock to pass through this area.

Last year we started constructing a reroute below the old Top of the World Campground and this year an early crew led by **Bill Carpenter** and **Gavin Bailey** will complete the project. This is a great crew to kick off the season with its camp in a beautiful forest setting.

Another great campsite will be used by the crew at Raspberry Gulch where leader **Glenn Kepler** and volunteers will rebuild the tread south of Mt. Princeton Hot Springs. Imagine wrapping up your work every day by soaking in the hot springs!

In mid-July **Phil Smith** and his crew will return to Clear Creek where we constructed a major bridge two years ago. Volunteers will camp on the banks of the stream and work on the Trail south of the new bridge to bring the tread up to CT standards.

In addition to these projects we also will be working with the Forest Service to plan and accomplish required environmental assessments for several reroutes just west of Salida. These efforts are all aimed toward our goal of keeping the CT a family-friendly Trail.

If you haven't signed up for a crew this season, we still have some openings for volunteers on several fun Trail crew projects. We hope to see you out on the Trail this summer, either as one of our volunteers or as a user of the Trail in what we know is some of the most beautiful scenery in our nation. ▲

2009 Crews Not Yet Full

Crews are filling up fast this year! Volunteers are still needed for the crews listed below. Be sure to reserve your spot quickly by mailing or faxing in your registration form, waiver and fee. Forms are easily secured from the CTF office or website: www.ColoradoTrail.org/Crews.

| Crew # Crew Name Ranger District | Dates Leader Phone # | Description of Work and Base Camp including Elevation and Colorado Trail Segment Number |
|--|--|--|
| 0109 Top of the World South Platte RD | June 13 – 20 Bill Carpenter 303-444-2024 Gavin Bailey 303-684-4082 | Drive-in: Nice campsite in the trees, working to build new Trail below the old Top of the World Campground. This project was started last year and we will finish it this year through an open meadow full of wildflowers. Elevation 7,600 ft. CT Segment 2. |
| 0409 Lost Park South Park RD | June 27 – July 4 Tom Brooksher 303-694-1676 | Jeep-in: Camp and work in a beautiful secluded valley. Improve the Trail where it climbs to the top of the park, building drainage structures and installing culverts. Elevation 10,000 ft. CT Segment 4. |
| 0509 Clear Creek Leadville RD | July 11 – 18 Phil Smith 303-688-9638 | Drive-in: Camp near fast-flowing Clear Creek. We will improve the CT on the hillside south of the new bridge. Great fishing near camp on your day off. Elevation 9,000 ft. CT Segment 12. |
| 0709 Raspberry Gulch Salida RD | July 18 – 25 Glenn Kepler 303-278-7795 | Drive-in: Camp in beautiful meadows and improve the Trail from Raspberry Gulch north. Great views of the Arkansas Valley. Close to the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs. Elevation 9,500 ft. CT Segment 14. |
| 1109 Halfmoon Reroute 2 Leadville RD | August 1 – 8 Arthur Rankin 303-394-1669 | Drive-in: Complete a 1-mile reroute to eliminate a steep section of Trail. The reroute is scratched in and we will finish it up. Camp in a National Forest Campground. Elevation 10,500 ft. CT Segment 11. |
| WE2 Camp Hale Holy Cross RD | July 18 – 19 Cindy Johnson 303-987-3225 | Drive-in: "Ladies Only" weekend crew. Camp in the area of Camp Hale near the East Fork of the Eagle River. Work will be to widen an overgrown section of Trail that parallels the road. Elevation 9,400 ft. CT Segment 8. |

2009 Education Adventures

Join Gudy Gaskill and workshop instructors for a week of learning and camaraderie at the CTF Cabin high in the San Juan Mountains near Lake City, Colorado. The Classes, now in their 15th year, are a fun way to learn a new skill surrounded by the best scenery Colorado has to offer. For more information on the classes and instructors, and to secure registration materials, visit the Education Adventures on the CTF website: www.ColoradoTrail.org/Workshops.

Work Crew 1: 6/13 – 6/19 Help ready the Education Facility. No cost. Phone Gudy at (303) 526-2721.

Work Crew 2: 6/20 – 6/27 Help improve the Education Facility. No cost. Phone Gudy (303) 526-2721.

Kids' Natural World: 6/28 – 7/4 Ages 6 to 11 with parent or grandparent, hike, fish, crafts, wildlife, nature studies, survival, animal tracks and exploring. Adults can choose to stay with the young ones each day, or concentrate on separate crafts and outings provided for the grownups.

Artist Retreat OR Painting Nature Outdoors (Oil & Watercolor): 7/19 – 7/25

Artists Retreat: For experienced painters who wish to spend the week in a visually inspiring place, here is your opportunity. Meals and base camp provided and you are free to create.

Outdoor Painting in Oil or Watercolor: Daily field trips to picturesque sites with individual instruction. Learn techniques of capturing high altitude color, plus secrets of washes, sketches, and shadows. This class is for all levels, with individual critiques daily.

Birds and Wildflowers: 7/26 – 8/1 Early morning bird walks and all-day field sessions. Nothing compares to the sub-alpine and high alpine meadows during peak blooming season. Hiking miles are few for this course; most of the days are spent sitting and learning amid a field of color. Bring your cameras!

Geology of the San Juans: 8/2 – 8/8 Rock hound adventures, field trips, glaciation, volcanism, geologic reality. Appropriate for all levels. After a mini geology course, daily field trips are hands-on and provide permanent understanding of geology. Attendees must be in good physical condition to enjoy the trips.

Plein Air Watercolor: 8/9 – 8/15 Capture colors in our high altitude, washes, sketches & shadows. Daily field trips to picturesque sites with lots of individual attention and critique for all skill levels. The week will include a Friday evening review of all the class paintings.

Climbing Some of the Highest Peaks: 8/16 – 8/22 Fantastic peaks, expert leaders, safety, planning, pacing. Participants climb some of San Juan's highest 13ers and 14ers in 5 days. You must be in good physical condition to participate fully.

Trekking in 2009

CTF supported treks may be the most enjoyable way to experience The Colorado Trail. On these multi-day excursions, participants hike the CT carrying only their daypacks. Camping gear is shuttled to the next camp by the trek staff. All meals are provided. Treks for this summer are filling up already! Contact **Jeanne** and **Chris Szczech** at info@coloradotrailhiking.com or visit www.ColoradoTrail.org/Treks for more information and to register. ▲

2009 Events - Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendars for the 2009 CTF Friends Picnic and Holiday Party. These two events are increasingly popular and are not to be missed. Each year the CTF receives rave reviews from attendees.

Friends Picnic – Saturday, September 12, Noon – 3:00 pm, Bear Creek Lake Park, Morrison

Connect with other CT Friends, it's fun each year. Picnic lunch, prizes and a chance for the CTF to recognize your involvement.

Holiday Party – Thursday, December 10, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, American Mountaineering Center, Golden

This annual tradition is a festive celebration of the CTF. Join other CT enthusiasts to socialize. Appetizers, wine, door prizes. Bring your friends and family for this fun evening! ▲



*Merry Christmas to all of you at the CTF!
Sandi and I especially want to thank you for the Holiday Party that you planned, prepared and carried off so well on December 11! Everything was just great, and it was the perfect start to the Season...a time during which we are reminded of how fortunate we are to live in Colorado, and to enjoy the blessings of friendships that The Colorado Trail represents.
Sincerely,
CT and Sandi Westgard*

CT Adopters Clear The Trail

The CTF Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) Program accomplishes the annual, routine maintenance on the entire 500 miles of the CT. Our Adopters are most important volunteers. They clear the fallen trees on their section early each trail season as soon as the snow melts and clean the water diversions to stem erosion. Trail users owe a lot to the CTF Adopters who make the Trail passable each season and help preserve it.

Janet Farrar volunteers as the AAT Coordinator. She says the Adopter momentum is good. Most of the 60 Adopter Sections are filled and the Adopters are performing well. Two new Adopters, **Jeremy Bock** and **Boy Scout Troop 72**, have signed on for recent openings in Segments 12 and 13. There is an opening in Segment 24 in the San Juan Mountains near Silverton. There may also be openings soon in Segments 7 (Breckenridge area) and 17 (near Saguache) where Adopters are tiring. Janet keeps a list of interested, prospective Adopters, and appreciates leads to folks who may be interested that live in different small Colorado towns near the Trail. You can reach her by email at wildjc@juno.com.

In addition to their field responsibilities, Adopters also report their findings to the CTF. This paperwork is highly important; it communicates trail conditions including the need for future Trail Crews. Not only do the CT Adopters care for the Trail, their reports are of great value to the CTF. ▲

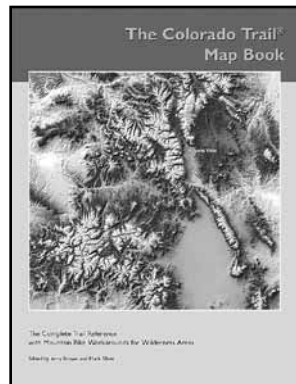
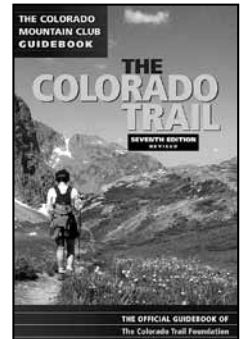
Books Guide CT Users

Publications covering The Colorado Trail are in wide use. They contain Trail descriptions, maps and GPS information helping users plan their excursions and stay on the Trail. The CTF, our volunteers and affiliates work hard to produce these accurately and keep them up to date. (Special thanks goes out to **Jerry Brown**, the CTF volunteer surveyor and cartographer.) The books are available at a variety of merchants and also at our online "CT Store" where your purchases help us preserve The Colorado Trail.

www.ColoradoTrail.org/Store or (toll free 1-866-279-6962)

CT Guidebook, Seventh Edition Revised 2008

The "Official Guidebook of the CTF" is most helpful for trip planning. Detailed descriptions include Trail access information and the maps of each segment show the roads and road numbers helpful in planning your rendezvous and resupplies. Includes elevation profiles, equipment checklists, food and safety recommendations, full-color photographs and bicycle routes for the detours around Wilderness. 254 pages, 6" x 9", paperbound, \$24.95

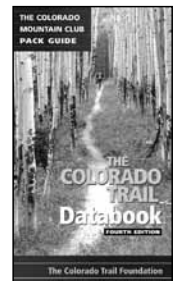


CT Map Book, 2009

Shaded relief, full-color topo maps plus GPS waypoint data — the entire Colorado Trail with high-level accuracy. For navigating on the Trail, these topo maps help you determine what's ahead including water sources and gentle terrain for camping. Also includes maps and waypoints for each bicycle detour around the Wilderness areas. 103 pages, 73 maps, 8-1/2" x 11", spiral-bound, \$49.00

CT Trailside Databook, Fourth Edition, 2009

This book is undergoing revision and the 4th Edition is expected to hit shelves by July. Lightweight and pocket-sized, the CT Databook is like the "Cliff Note" version of the Guidebook. Information is presented in a proven, easy-to-understand system of keywords and symbols. There are mini-maps and elevation profiles for each of the 28 segments. 64 pages, 4-1/2" x 6-1/2", paperbound, \$11.95 ▲



Hi Jerry,

I just received the CT Map Book – it is FANTASTIC! You and Mark Silver are to be congratulated and thanked for such an outstanding and useful publication. Thanks again for your efforts and for helping make the CT the great experience that it is.

—Steve Crusier

As I look back, The Colorado Trail was and is a "field of dreams." It has grown and changed by the "dreams" of those who worked on it and who love the "out of doors of Colorado". We thank them for their work and dedication.

As I reflect back, I had the opportunity to learn about some of these dreams as I prepared for a talk with the **Colorado Mountain Club** in 1970. In that talk, I acknowledged that the Club was asking and beating the drums for protective management of "a Rocky Mountain Trail." Others expressed these same dreams.

Perhaps the true genesis of The Trail can be traced back to the **Roundup Riders**, a group of men who in the 1940's decided they wanted to see the Rocky Mountains from horseback. So the Roundup Riders was formed in 1948. It was 1970, but that dream still existed among the Roundup Riders, and they really showed us "downtown support."

I think it was those two things, the dreams of the **Colorado Mountain Club** and the Roundup Riders that really put the matter of a trail in front of me. Actually the "Rocky Mountain Trail" now "The Colorado Trail" was conceived by the Mountain Club and Roundup Riders, and the opportunity to bring it to reality was what occurred to me.

There was also another chap who was very active at that time – **Bill Ruskin** from Colorado Springs. He had a group of volunteers in the Colorado Springs area and was working with Forest Rangers to open up trails.

Credit for organizing wide spread public support for the Trail goes to **Merrill Hastings** and his "Colorado Magazine." He did a wonderful job of bringing the opportunity to the forefront in his magazine.

In 1974, several focus groups with interest in outdoor use brainstormed and developed a plan. The Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation was born of this process and three goals were outlined:

1. To develop a non-vehicular trail system between Denver and Durango for recreational and educational uses.
2. To provide educational opportunities for schools, colleges, universities, organizations, communities, and individuals.
3. To provide for public involvement, awareness, and appreciation and to encourage participation in the voluntary construction, maintenance, and management.

To accomplish these goals, the **Forest Service** and the Foundation formally entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 1976. Until this time, the volunteers derived mostly through the Colorado Mountain Club under the leadership of **Gudy Gaskill**, had already begun to rebuild and locate the proposed corridor.

The agreement between the Forest Service and the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation marked the beginning of a partnership, with both entities agreeing on cooperation in all aspects of building The Colorado Trail to make the vision a reality.

Many obstacles faced the project including lack of focus and drive. But in 1980, the Colorado Mountain Club's Trails and Huts Committee made The Colorado Trail its top priority. Gudy Gaskill was the chairperson and champion. And, although until this time, the trail progressed in piecemeal fashion, this commitment through the CMC was a turning point. The Forest Service budgets had been cut and were, at first, a seemingly insurmountable obstacle. Gudy saw that the trail could be built for a much lower cost by the private sector using volunteers and fundraising.

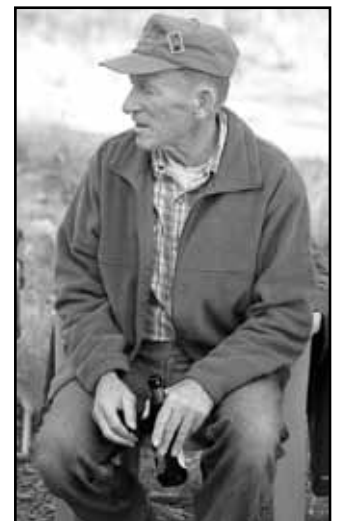
The effort enjoyed a boost by the personal interest of then **Governor Richard D. Lamm** who wanted to see the project completed before the end of his term in 1986. Lamm's interest sparked renewed cooperation between the State of Colorado and the Forest Service over the planning of recreational facilities on federal land in Colorado. It was the first time the state and federal governments worked in partnership in establishing priorities in building recreational facilities.

The Colorado Trail truly swells with the richness of the historical partnerships created between all of its volunteers and state and federal agencies. Indeed, the real heroes in the "dream" are the thousands of volunteers who provided painstaking manual labor. Led by the persistent and dedicated Gudy Gaskill, volunteers came from all corners of the country. The stories behind these volunteers are copious, but the commonality between all seems to be the satisfaction derived from having contributed to a tangible natural resource that will remain a legacy for generations — a legacy which will feed the quest for adventure, and precipitate the special dimension of life imparted by the spirit of the outdoors. The dream has come true. ▲

In 1987, **Ken Stagner** responded a radio plea calling for CT Trail Crew volunteers and quickly joined his first Crew at Molas Pass. He enjoyed it and has since worked on countless Trail Crews. Later, Ken and his wife, **Helen**, also served many years as dedicated CT Adopters and they now assist regularly with CTF mailings. Ken's involvement has truly been an asset to the CTF!

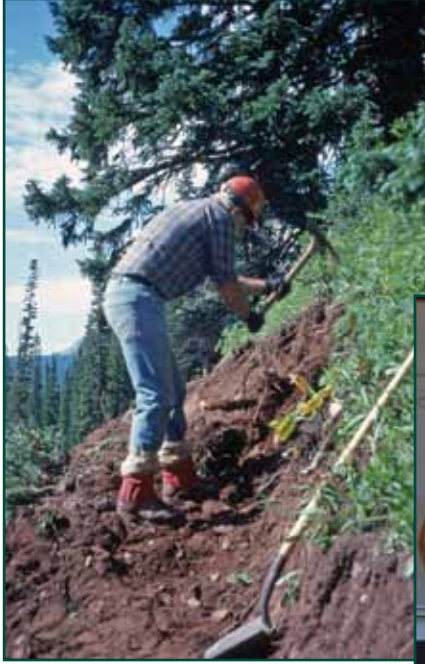
A TOAST TO THE HIGH COUNTRY by Ken Stagner

*Here's to the High Country where spirits can soar,
Where life can be harder, and that makes you "more."
Where the air is thinner and sometimes you gasp,
Where shadow and light are in vivid contrast.
And here's to the ones who have the right stuff,
Who love the High Country and know it's enough,
To teach us some lessons, and give us perspective,
With a touch of solitude to make us reflective.*



2009
35th Anniversary
of The Colorado Trail

Organizers began the effort in 1974.



Reenergized in the early to mid 1980's, Volunteers were building the CT.



Teamwork was fun and CT groups proved that volunteers could succeed.



The Trail was connected in 1987 with ceremonies and this formal dedication in 1988.

Read more inside about the CT history plus what's current.

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