President’s Corner

by Marilyn Eisele

This has been a busy summer for the Colorado Trail Foundation. On July 8 we signed a new, updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service that we had been working with Greg Warren on for more than a year. It was exciting to see this project completed since the MOU is the formal statement of our operating relationship with the Forest Service. At the signing ceremony we presented the Forest Service a plaque expressing appreciation for 30 years of cooperation in building and maintaining The Colorado Trail. And Regional Forester Rick Cables presented CTF Past President Jon Greeneisen with a plaque recognizing his volunteer service to the Trail.

Work to publish our new CT Guidebook is proceeding on schedule. Jerry Brown has finished hiking the Trail from end to end to collect current Trail data and now Jerry is working with Merle McDonald to consolidate and prepare the information for publication. Merle and Jerry hope to have the final draft of the Guidebook for delivery to the publisher by October 15. Our thanks to Trek Program Managers Pete and Lisa Turner for letting Jerry hike with them on the supported treks. They kept Jerry fed and carried his gear.

A Good Summer for the Trail!

Over 79 days—June 3 through August 20—351 volunteers, organized into 6 weekend crews and 13 week-long crews, put in 12,392 hours of labor to improve The Colorado Trail. Crew members widened, rehabbed, hardened tread and removed berm on 30,697 feet (5.8 miles) of the Trail and constructed 3,920 feet of new Trail. They built 3 major bridges, 9 culverts, 179 water bars, 89 rolling dips and 46 natural drains. Volunteers erected 26 Trailmarkers posts, removed 88 trees from the Trail, moved 14 tons of gravel onto the Trail and constructed 400 feet of “buck and pole” fence.

continued on page 2
President’s Corner
continued from page 1

This year we had 6 weekend crews and 13 week-long crews. Registrars Lois and Tracy Cochran signed up more than 360 volunteers who came to help maintain and improve The Colorado Trail. Thanks to George Miller’s management and support of the crews, a tremendous amount of work was accomplished as the Trail crew summary indicates.

Gudy Gaskill again directed our CTF Educational Program at Lake City where five outdoor classes were held. Registrar Charlotte Briber registered more than 30 students. Gudy’s report on the classes is included in this newsletter.

It was a good summer for The Colorado Trail and for the Foundation. But as most of you no doubt have heard, Suzanne Reed resigned as Volunteer Coordinator in September. Suzanne and husband Bill moved to Silverthorne earlier this year and Suzanne found the commute to Golden difficult in winter. We already miss her cheerful face and bright smile but wish her success in her next venture.

With Suzanne’s resignation the CTF Board of Directors had to decide about filling her position. The Board looked at the hours Suzanne was working, the trends in volunteerism, our aging volunteer base, CTF finances, and the increasing demands placed on the President and other officers. We felt we had three choices—hire a part-time replacement for the position, hire a full-time replacement, or hire a higher level person to address some of our growing needs. After considering the reality of the situation and many hours of discussion, the Board decided the time had come to hire a full-time Managing Director. This was a very difficult decision for the Board because we value the active volunteer role and the enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers. We do not want to compromise this in any way; however in recent years it has become increasingly difficult to find a volunteer willing to make the time commitment of 15 to 20 hours a week that the Presidency has come to require. As we all know, the dedication of a Gudy Gaskill will never be found again. The Board of Directors believes this move will strengthen the Foundation in the long term and help us meet the challenges of tomorrow.

USFS Regional Forester Rick Cables and CTF President Marilyn Eisele sign the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations.
Overview of What We Accomplished by George Miller, Trail Crew Coordinator

As summer wanes and the fall’s “Golden Season” begins, we can look back on a very successful summer of Trail improvement. In addition to our schedule of 19 crews, we had a number of special crews including school groups, Scout troops, and retired smokejumpers, all adding their efforts in keeping The Colorado Trail in the great condition we have grown to expect.

A major accomplishment of the summer was the taming of the notorious “big bog” at the west end of Lost Park. Chuck Lawson’s pack crew installed several new culverts to drain the water under the Trail instead of over it. This resolved a problem that’s existed as long as we’ve had the Trail.

In Jerry Brown’s notes of his survey of the Trail for the new Guidebook, he refers to the dangerous crossing of Browns Creek. NOT SO ANY MORE!! As of August 20, John Lipe’s crew constructed a fine new bridge across Browns Creek and also one over Little Browns Creek.

Less glamorous but still important to the preservation and good condition of the Trail were the crews that spent their days hauling and installing many signposts, water bar reinforcing posts and gravel. It’s hard work but very necessary as we continually cope with water. Thanks to all of you who haul.

And thanks, too, to all of you who improved the tread, made rolling dips and drains, removed berm and rocks, cut trees and brush, installed culverts and constructed fence along The Colorado Trail. You are the best!!

In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President’s Corner</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Cochetopa Hills Crew 1505 Report</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>Food Donations for Trail Crews</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Good Summer for the Trail!</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thanks to Our Four-Legged Friends and Their Riders</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Trekking from Kenosha Pass to Durango</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of What We Accomplished</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Browns Creek Crew 1605 Report</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>“Sixteen Miles of CT Sold to Folks from Oklahoma”</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopter’s Corner – Adopters Give Sixteen Hundred Hours to Maintain the CT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CTF Cabin Work Crew</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>“Thanks for Your Friendship”</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Lake Crew 0605 Report</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Blank’s Cabin Crew WE-3 Report</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>CTF Office Hours</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molas Pass Crew 0705 Report</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Song of the Browns Creek Crew</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>SOLD OUT</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Park Pack Crew 0805 Report</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Georgia Pass Crew WE-4 Report</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Look at Our Website!!</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miners Creek Crew 0905 Report</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Camp Hale Crew WE-5 Report</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>CT Cabin Available for Winter Use</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molas Pass Crew 1005 Report</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Outdoor Classes Were the Place to Be!</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>The Colorado Trail Store</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochetopa Hills Crew 1205 Report</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>New Guidebook Scheduled for Next Spring</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballad of the Blaster</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolam Pass Trail Crew 1405 Report</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adopter’s Corner

Adopters Give Sixteen Hundred Hours to Maintain the CT
by Janet Farrar, Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

Big thanks to all our hard working Adopters this year!! This spring and summer they spent more than 1,600 hours checking out the Trail, cutting more than 250 trees, cleaning hundreds of water bars, trimming foliage and putting up lots of new Trail signs. And the reports are still coming in. It was a tough, late summer in the San Juans due to last winter’s huge snowfall but the Adopters got the south end of the Trail in good shape.

Every year our Adopters are amazing for the huge efforts they put forth to make The Colorado Trail THE BEST!! We have made a lot of progress in better communication between Adopters, the office, and hikers through use of e-mail and the website. Adopters have really come through in providing current information about conditions and users of the Trail greatly appreciate knowing what to expect. And hikers often let us know when they run into problems on the Trail so we can get them addressed. This month we will be using the Adopter reports and other information to plan next year’s crews. So stayed tuned for next year’s trail crew opportunities!

We also want to thank Craig Nelson who is retiring from adoption of Section 10.3 over Hope Pass. Anyone interested in adopting Section 10.3 should let us know. And we’re grateful, too, to Harriet Patton, who is turning over Section 5.1 to Phil and Mary Hansen. Both Craig and Harriet have dedicated about 20 years to The Colorado Trail. Harriet will stay on to help Phil and Mary who worked on Harriet’s trail crews many years.

As the snow flies this winter, keep thinking of summer when we will be out checking and maintaining the best high-mountain trail in the country!!

Mt. Elbert Crew 0105 Report: June 11–18, 2005
San Isabel National Forest
by Betsy Sylvester, Crew Member

Our June Trail crew worked near Leadville at the base of Mt. Elbert on a portion the adopted section of our leader, Phil Smith. This energetic, hard-working crew included Glynnis Cox, Jack Kline, Roy Leonard, Ken Nakauchi, Mae Smith, Luke Stoneman, Betsy and John Sylvester, and B. Brooks Taylor.

As soon as camp was set up on Saturday afternoon, June 11, it began to rain and Sunday morning was a chilly one. Since everyone had Trail experience, our training day was a short workday. Snow fell off and on all Sunday afternoon and when the sun came out we watched steam rise off the tents! It was snowing when we went to bed but Monday morning was clear and cool. We delayed leaving for our work site until the snow melted. And the snow did soon melt, even on the higher peaks.

On the first two days of work the crew removed many rocks—most of them large and buried deep. One rock was a real monster—it was flat on top. We pried a bit with a rock bar and it looked like it would move. So we decided to remove it from that new tread. Using efforts of the entire crew plus all the rock bars and pickmatics, about an hour later this “small” stone was removed!

We accomplished a lot of work on Tuesday—a clear, warmer day. On Wednesday (our day off) one member went fishing, one hiked up Mt. Elbert, and the rest of us drove into Leadville for showers at the hostel, lunch at the Pizza Hut, and some shopping—or at least window-shopping!

Thursday was another beautiful day and we met one backpacker and four hikers on the Trail. By Friday, break-times and lunch-time were most welcome. The week went by so fast! Mae and Glynnis did the cooking and kept the camp in order. On Saturday we broke camp and packed the trailer. We were fed extremely well, made new friends, and started looking forward to the next crew this summer. And then, back to hot days along the Front Range and our “other” jobs and lives!

Crew statistics: The average age of this crew was 50.45 years and we improved 1,482 feet of The Colorado Trail.
Bear Lake Crew 0605 Report: July 2–9, 2005
San Isabel National Forest by Dale Zoetewey, Crew Leader

We arrived at camp only to be greeted by 1,000 hungry and blood-thirsty mosquitoes that hadn’t been fed for weeks. After feeding the mosquitoes and setting up camp we were able to relax a bit and enjoy each other’s company for the evening with a wonderful meal provided by Bev Gherardini (kitchen manager) and assistant Penny Simpson.

Our task for the week was to turnpike and prepare a section of the Trail for gravel, remove trees, improve drainage at three small creeks, add water bars, clean up organic material and debris, and improve a new Trail reroute. Team leader Ken Swierenga and Justin Milne used their USFS certified sawyer skills with helpers Richard Bennett, Cory Zoetewey, Lisa Snelling, Fred Tyler and Geoff Straight to remove 19 trees and stumps adjacent to the Trail. Team leader Dewey Hill with Tonya Mitch, Jim Mitch, Julie Terpstra, and Ryan Zoetewey cleaned and repaired the creek crossings and added troughs adjacent to the creeks to prevent water from saturating the Trail during heavy rains and spring runoff. Jane Zoetewey, Hillory Bennett, Bev Gherardini, Penny Simpson, Charlie Miller and I removed rocks and organic material, filled in low spots with mineral soil, and provided slope for drainage on 1,000 feet of the reroute. After working a full day on the Fourth of July, those who still had energy left, climbed the hill to Uncle Bud’s Hut and enjoyed the view and the Leadville fireworks. On Wednesday, normally the crew’s day off, we moved 28,000 pounds of gravel onto the Trail with the help of Glen Ryan and Bill Dabney of the USFS with their pack team of 9 mules. This may have been a first for the CTF and volunteer crews but despite the tough work we had a good time working with the mules. Overall, we had an excellent week. We enjoyed the work, scenery, weather, and each other’s cooking and company while improving 1,500 feet of new Trail above Bear Lake.
This project proved to be difficult for our crew but everyone rose to the challenge.

Through Denny Hogan, the Forest Service snow ranger in Silverton, arrangements had been made for the Silverton Snowmobile Club to snowmobile treated posts for our water bars as far up the Trail as possible. The club moved about 50 post and 2 culverts up to Turn Around Rock under Grand Turk Mountain with the plan to move the posts further up the Trail when conditions permitted.

Our trouble started when snow conditions deteriorated and snowmobiles could no longer be used which left the posts almost a half mile and 500 vertical feet above the Trail. The crew had to climb up to the posts and then hand carry them over rugged terrain for up to two miles. I thought it would take most of the week to get the job done. But due to efforts of some outstanding individuals the posts were moved down and distributed along the Trail by noon of the second day.

The other crew members began four and one-half miles from camp to work their way back towards camp: putting in water bars, constructing rolling dips, improving natural drains and repairing tread as well as cutting willows and trees that were encroaching on the Trail. Our goal was to complete work on two and one-half miles of Trail. It seemed an impossible goal at the beginning of the week but the can-do attitude of the crew made it possible.

Jim and Larry Ballantyne solved a drainage problem and everyone who saw the finished project was amazed. They were ably assisted by Ray Landfair, Steve Kin and Howard Crisp. This group, with Peter Owen, were the reason the posts got spread out on the Trail so rapidly.

Jim Kleckner supervised his group that included Becky Wynn, who trimmed willows, and Doug Cline, who built water bars, rolling dips and removed berm. Later in the week they were assisted by Ray Ready and Peter Owen, our youngest crew members.

Out at the far end of the project building water bars, rolling dips and improving tread were Jill Ozaki, Suzanne Reed, Kathleen Jones, Cathy Hoch and Jan Quintrall. These ladies put in a full day’s work and built beautifully constructed water bars. Special recognition goes to Dana Fetterman who trimmed trees and willows which seemed an endless task. Dana and her husband Bob Fetterman came from Massachusetts and Bob carried poles, put in water bars, improved tread and constructed rolling dips.

Ken Marshall helped supervise this part of the crew. We worked with Clint Britt from Houston, Bruce Thill of our Michigan group and Ed Matthys as we hauled posts, constructed water bars and rolling dips, and improved the tread while trying to keep up with the ladies.

Some crew members were hurting physically but came anyway. Larry Mack had his foot in a walking cast yet helped in the kitchen and cooked our meals. Jim McIntosh came from St. Charles, Missouri, with a swollen knee, yet Jim trimmed trees and greeted hikers on the Trail. And special thanks to my wife and co-leader Pat who organized the camp.

We had a great crew with a positive attitude, a good sense of humor and a willingness to take on any task. We completed a major drainage project, constructed 51 water bars, 27 rolling dips, improved 16 natural drains, trimmed willows and trees on 2 miles of Trail and improved the tread on 1,000 feet of Trail, while hiking from 2 to 4 1/2 miles to work. Great going, guys and gals.
Lost Park Pack Crew 0805 Report: July 9–16, 2005
Pike National Forest

For the third year in a row CT crews again worked at improving the Trail from Long Gulch Trailhead east towards Lost Park. This year we backpacked three miles into a gorgeous campsite overlooking the Lost Park Meadow and were serenaded by a lively creek next door every night. The new drain-bag water filters were a big hit and we had plenty of fresh water all week.

Glenn Ryan and Bill Dabney of the USFS Specialty Pack String based in Shawnee, CO delivered the camp supplies Saturday morning and were kind enough to make a second trip delivering eight six-and-a-half-foot culvert pipes. That was something to see on mules. Jim and Julie Cheney and all the great riders from the Front Range Back Country Horsemen were very efficient in taking our camp back out the next Saturday and without their fine assistance we could not have had this pack crew.

Ours was a strong crew with ages from 17 to more than 70 and the members completed amazing improvements to the “Big Bog” section in Lost Park Meadow. We installed several culverts and French drains to dry up the tread and eliminate the need for hikers to pull off their boots to walk through. George Miller came on Thursday to retrieve our wheelbarrow for repairs and crossing to the west side he found how deep the wetland is.

Crew members included Francisco Garcia of Barcelona, Spain; John Marksbury of Olathe, KS; Dick Blue of Dripping Springs, Texas; Paul Smith of Colorado Springs and from the metro Denver/Boulder area Bill Carpenter, John Singleton, Bill Brown, Andrew Hammond, Del Militare and Bob Hunter. Paul Smith and Bob Hunter are experienced crew leaders and their advice and assistance was a great help. Linda Lawson was our camp chef for the third year in a row and she received many compliments.

Bill Brown and John Singleton brought their fishing gear and every evening caught a nice mess of brook trout out of the beaver ponds for our breakfast the next morning. Bill took our visitor from Spain, Francisco Garcia, for his first experience with trout fishing and he caught lots as well.

The rest of the crew hiked up to the ridge above the meadow to the east on Wednesday. They were successful in not only attaining the ridge between the Lost Park Meadow and the Kenosha Mountains but were able to summit the rocky overlook above camp as well as the unnamed peak above our “Big Bog” work site. We named this peak Mount Francisco in honor of our hard worker from Barcelona. Paul Smith discovered a geocache site by the rocky overlook above camp and he and John Marksbury exchanged some items and signed the register for this new GPS orienteering experience that is becoming popular along the CT.

My thanks to all the crew for their fine job and since we have more to do in this area next year, I invite anyone seeking an exceptional back packing experience to join us next summer. See you along the CT.
Miners Creek Crew 0905 Report: July 16–23, 2005
Arapahoe National Forest

by Susan Miner, Crew Member

Dear Friends,

We are back on the shores of Lake Dillon packing up our gear after our annual work on the Gold Hill section of The Colorado Trail in Summit County. Last year’s camp was described as a village. If that is true, this one was a city as there were more than 40 of us this year! Crew leader Stan Ward said it was fun with so many mouths to feed. I am not sure Sue Palmer, our crew chef, agreed since it is one thing to double a recipe but to double it again is a task. But she had a ball doing it!

Jerry Anderson, Tom Brooksher, Frank Svetecz, John Lipe, and Cindy Johnson served as small crew leaders. Each group had a section they were responsible for and with a crew this size we were able to accomplish much. We moved the Trail to new ground, dug up rocks the size of file cabinets, and cut up enough roots to keep our small city in wood for a whole winter.

An interesting thing about this crew was the ages of the members. Two thirds of us were over 50 with the rest under 25! This made Talent Night a true variety show. Susan Miner was in charge of entertainment but it was an easy task with all the talented people. Andy and Kyle Brooksher, Nate Davis and Bryant Reinking kept us in stitches with their improv routines. Laura Farmer is always amusing with a ditty. We had “dueling” story time with Rolly Rogers and Don Brevington telling tall tales and we always looked forward to the music of Dan Russell.

One of my favorite things about the small crews was how the young people were spread out so we could get to know them better and they could learn from the older folks more than just Trail building. Heather and Adrienne Stone are very bright and well read. Justin, Zachary, and Brian Stevens worked hard yet were “all boys” which made the Trail work go faster and more fun. And, of course, there was Sarah Johnson’s willing spirit and Erick Johnson’s impish grin!

Not many crews have a “corporate sponsor” but Steve and Amanda Cruser showed up with lots of goodies from REI so we had daily awards for each of the small crews. We got stickers and socks and shirts for doing our very best—which we would have done anyway but the awards made it fun!

Travel is always a topic of conversation after dinner. Sally Stone told of a great trip to Costa Rica while Docia Smithwick and Carol Clapp are talking about a trip together this year. I think some of us use the Trail crew just as an excuse to get together with old friends. Maria Fagan came all the way from Ireland with her husband Brian and friend Tom Croke to spend time with John Lipe and his wife Eileen who joined us several evenings. And Nancy and Bob Stevens and their three sons flew in to be with her sister Cindy Johnson. The Colorado Trail has a mysterious draw. Billy and Kris McMillen are thinking of moving to Colorado and Roy Senyard comes each summer to enjoy the magic of our mountains.

We met many people hiking the Trail. We met an older woman and her full-sized poodle, Sassy, who hike the Trail every day. We met folks just out for the day who were astounded that we would finish our work in days not months. Without the hard work of people like Bob Miner, Dick Blue and Sam House; without the heart of John Seidel, Fred Almay and Ernie Svetec; runners and bikers like Marnie Harden and Pat Klein (who later ran up Pikes Peak!); hikers young and old; two-legged and four; we would not have this wonderful Trail to travel. So long for now. Hope to see you next year!

—Susan
Molas Pass Crew 1005 Report: July 16–23
San Juan National Forest

by Ernie Norris, Crew Leader

The weather was great (with the exception of a hailstorm Friday night), the scenery was wonderful and the crew extraordinary! How fortunate it was for us, Ann and Ernie Norris, the neophyte crew leaders, to end up with such a fantastic crew on our first outing.

Even though we had only 15 on the team, we completed all of the work planned for a full crew with time left over. We installed 43 treated post water bars, built 18 rolling dips, put up 4 Trail marker posts, built 150 feet of new Trail, improved 7 natural dips, debermed 150 feet of Trail, trimmed 200 feet of trees, built a 100-foot drainage ditch and improved 3 rocky ledge areas. The good news was that our work area started right at camp and went out only about two miles. The bad news was that it was all uphill!

Every person on the crew, from seasoned “multi-crew” people to “first-timers,” contributed huge amounts of enthusiasm, hard work and good humor to make the week a great experience. Although Ann and I were somewhat apprehensive about leading a crew, the group of folks eliminated any apprehension the first day. I was impressed and grateful for everyone’s unselfish commitment to The Colorado Trail. Crew members included Stephanie Bohnert, Carolyn and Doug Burtard, Steve Espinoza, Keith Harmon, Art and Mara Hertel, Tony Howell, Jed Levin, Debbie and Ralph Ploeger, Elfriede Shoemaker, and Horacio Ore-Giron.

The adopter of the section we worked on, the Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen, provided a “Chuckwagon dinner” on Thursday night that was a special treat. Their generosity was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Pat and Ted La May for their help (Ted for helping Ernie with what should be done and how to do it, and Pat for guiding Ann on kitchen issues), Ken Marshall for providing our drinking water, and Laverne Nelson for our shower stalls. Thanks also to Don Kelley of the Forest Service for having dinner with us and for his kind comments.
Cochetopa Hills Crew 1205 Report: July 23–30, 2005
Rio Grande National Forest

by Phil Smith, Crew Leader

This crew consisted of 3 teachers—Steve Brockmeyer, Kelly Gorham and Doug Martin—and 14 high school students from the Daniel C. Oakes High School in Douglas County. Students included Jake Acker, Ryan Aragon, Tony Baca, Dylan Buddeke, Justin Clawson, Damon Deane, Stephanie Gray, Leslie Franklin, Chris Frelboth, Caitlin McCann, Stephanie Ritmire, Libby Scott, and John Manning, who was a graduate from the school.

Rounding out the crew were Mae Smith and our niece Jessie Stoneman who served as cooks.

Mae, Jessie and I arrived on Friday afternoon to meet the ranger at the Saguache ranger station who, with his helper, pulled the CTF trailer and a 200-gallon water tank up to our camp. Two port-a-potties on a trailer had already been delivered. Saturday morning we set up a canopy for the dish washing equipment and unloaded the trailer in preparation for the crew coming Saturday afternoon. Phil and Jessie returned to Saguache to meet the crew while Mae spent time and much energy scrubbing the tables. On arriving at camp everyone set up their tents to get “settled” and then helped erect the cook tent, community tent and the “white elephant.” It began raining while we were setting up the cook tent but we got it up just before it rained hard. We got everything else set up after the rain ended.

We used Sunday to carry the tools up to the work site, provide instruction on safe use of the tools, and a couple of hours to practice using the tools. The DC Oaks crew worked Monday through Friday with shorter hours than normal and only a half day off on Wednesday. Wednesday afternoon we all went to visit the Soldierstone up on Sargents Mesa and made a stop in Saguache.

Saturday was an easy day—packing and loading personal equipment and loading the CTF trailer except for the three tents that we left up for the next crew.

The crew’s task was to finish a new tread across an upper meadow (elevation 12,000 feet) and finish new tread through half of a lower meadow. The volunteers completed 1,454 feet of tread. In the high meadow where water had run across the Trail and wiped out the tread, we were able to find and install large flat rocks on the side of the Trail to stop the erosion. We packed the dirt solidly by having all the crew members line up behind each other and walk across this new area, stomping their feet and taking half-steps as they stomped. It worked. When we checked on the area two weeks later, ATVs and dirt bikes on this motorized section of the CT had not disturbed the new tread.

Ballad of the Blaster

Yale was the setting and Merle was top hand,
ten twenty-four crew members, a tough little band,
the last night spaghetti by popular demand.

The cook she was ruffled, she’d wanted to take
fresh veggies and chicken, a stir-fry to make.
The crew shouted, “Spaghetti, for pasta we ache!”

She begged and she pleaded to no avail,
then, “Let them eat pasta, let them have ale.
no wish too much trouble for the crew of Mt. Yale.”

Richard made cheesecake, no oven he asked?
A bit of rusea gourmet delight he shaped from the ooze.

Ken brought in some music and that’s when he asked her
his job for the dinner, “Well, fire up the blaster.
We’re out of stove top, and it will be faster.

“When then it boils, turn it down low,
put in the spaghetti and let it cook slow,
and don’t overcook it, just keep that fire low.”

Ken did his utmost to follow the orders.
He wanted a good meal prepared for his partners.
He thought it would work if he did what he oughter.

But low on that blaster is far beyond high.
The dish was a challenge he learned with a sigh.
It roiled and it boiled. “Slow down!” our Ken cried.

The end of this story for Ken and his mates
is real soft spaghetti with crisp brown on their plates.
It burned on the bottom I must relate.

So, if you ask Ken what’s cookin’ tonight,
he’ll think of the blaster and remember his plight
and just for a moment he’ll feel a small fright.

He’ll say to you kindly, but it will be firm,
“I’ll work in the kitchen, I’ll work on the berm,
but I’ll skip the blaster cause I’ve served my term.”

–Ken Stagner
Bolam Pass Trail Crew 1405 Report: July 30–August 6, 2005
San Juan National Forest
by Jon Greeneisen, Crew Leader

The crew gathered at noon on Saturday at the FS Work Station at Trimble eight miles north of Durango. Melissa Monk and Mark Seklemian had come from Virginia to join the crew. Others had come from out of state as well—Kathy Howard from Arizona, Grey Owl Barrett from Oklahoma and Bill Preston from Texas. It was good to see everybody.

Ken Swierenga hitched up the CT trailer and we formed a 10-vehicle convoy for the 2-hour trek up the Hermosa Creek Road to camp near Celebration Lake at an altitude of more than 11,000 feet. The weather held, everyone pitched in and we enjoyed our first meal shortly after 6:00 p.m.

Our task was to make improvements on about a mile and a half of the Trail from Tin Can Road north over the ridge toward Cascade Creek. It’s a section above tree line with sweeping views of Lizard Head, the Wilsons, Hermosa Peak and Engineer Mountain.

Being the first week in August we were at the beginning of the monsoon season and afternoon storms limited our work much as we expected. Nevertheless, we put in almost 800 hours of volunteer effort to construct 24 water bars, 8 rolling dips, 15 natural drains and a culvert with major seep drain. We carried 42 treated posts up the Trail, erected 9 Trail markers, and widened tread or removed berm on over a 1,000 feet of the Trail. Not bad.

Mitch Brown and Ryan Gomas served as our “mules” to push/pull Stan Ward’s trail cart up the Trail loaded with four to seven treated posts each trip. Mark and Bob Seklemian formed our “mud brigade” to build the culvert to resolve the weeping hillside problem. Mike and Shawn Monk manned the rock bars to expel giant boulders from the Trail while other crew members, including Sam Davis, Ryan Monk, and Don VanWyke, took turns building water bars, rolling dips and natural drains.

In camp Marylin Greeneisen managed the cook tent and the crew cooks to keep tasty meals coming. Our morning cooks, Grady Monk and Roger Gomas, rose before sunup each day to prepare breakfast. Our campfire was in a beautiful setting and we were favored several evenings with guitar music from Jim Monk and Ryan Gomas while Grey Owl entertained with his harmonica and memorable bird calls.

A large number of through hikers, day hikers and bikers visited our camp. One was a chemistry professor from the University of Warsaw in Poland. Another was Cal Doner, a physician, who walked in on Tuesday and signed on to work with us the rest of the week.

We were fortunate to have great support from CT folks in Durango—Ken Marshall not only loaned his water trailer but filled the tank and pulled it up to our camp, Ted La May laid out the work and got us the posts, Lavern Nelson provided class-A shower stalls and put them up for us, and Bill Manning sharpened our tools. Bernie Stratman, adopter for this section of the CT, also came and worked with us for a day. Now that’s a bunch of support.

We had a good week.
Cochetopa Hills Crew 1505 Report: August 6–13, 2005
Rio Grande National Forest

by Betsy Sylvester, Crew Member

My, what a large crew we had—20 of us, working on The Colorado Trail about 30 miles west of Saguache. Our crew included 12 teens ranging in age from 11 to 18 who worked just as energetically as the adults. They integrated wonderfully and enjoyed a lot of “offTrail” time playing games, talking, etc.

Our crew leader, Phil Smith, had left up three tents and the shower stall from his crew two weeks earlier so we had it easy on Saturday. Rain on Saturday afternoon was a little inconvenient but settled the dust around camp.

Not far from camp were beaver ponds and several nights some of us would go up to be entertained by the beavers’ antics. As we came from our work site each day we saw deer, elk, marmots, and beavers, while in camp we marveled at the hummingbirds (both broadtail and rufus).

We used 4-wheel drive vehicles and then walked nearly a mile to the Trail on Sunday morning for tool instruction and some actual work. We worked on Monday and met one hiker while on Tuesday we saw five hikers as we finished the work in the meadow.

Some crew members who had vehicles went sight-seeing in the area on Wednesday—sun in the morning, clouds in the afternoon and rain late in the day. Others of us went to see the Vietnam Memorial “Soldierstone” on Sargents Mesa, then drove to Saguache to replenish our ice and enjoyed lunch at the local park. We learned that “Saguache” in the Ute language means “water that comes from underground.” Did you know that?

The rain delayed going to the Trail on Thursday morning because not only was the Trail sticky but the road was almost impassable. When we got to the Trail, we dug rocks and roots from the tread until the tread dried out so we could do more. More rain caused another delay in getting to work on Friday. Phil said that in the 10 or more years he’s been leading crews, this was the wettest week he ever experienced.

We completed 1,308 feet of Trail improvement. We saw 3 hikers (one couple had started the CT 24 days earlier) and 2 surveyors working nearby on the Continental Divide Trail.

Saturday, after breaking camp and loading the CTF trailer (it’s amazing that everything fits in!!), we all went back to reality. We had been well fed, made new friends, and look forward to next summer when we get to work on a reroute.

Our crew consisted of Anthony, Glynnis and Raymond Cox; Myles Dakan who came with his dad Geoffrey Doyle; Wayne Dubois; David Guthrie and his son Ryan; Duane Mullner; brothers Matt and Tom Nordberg and their friend from Ohio, Alex Thompson, and another friend, Jon Osborn; Alexis Saghie, who came with her grandparents Brooks and Janice Taylor; brother and sister Jessie and Luke Stoneman; Betsy and John Sylvester; and our great cook Mae Smith.

Thanks to Our Four-Legged Friends and Their Riders

The success of our 2005 Trail crews was due in no small part to a small army of pack horses, mules, and their human packers who carried in and out camp gear and trail building supplies for our Lost Park, Columbia Creek and Bear Lake crews. Two lucky crews at Little Molas Lake were treated to a gourmet barbeque and evening of camaraderie compliments of the Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen. And this year the Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage and Trails Foundation gave a generous grant for the purchase of CTF horse-packing equipment.

We all love hiking or riding the remote, wilderness areas of the CT.

Our Trail crew leaders and Trail adopters face the challenge of maintaining and, in some cases, rebuilding Trail segments. With the efficient, hard working and good-humored support of groups like the ones listed below, this challenge continues to be met.

Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen
Front Range Backcountry Horsemen
Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen
Laka Daza Livery Stables
USFS Mule Team (Glenn Ryan, Lead Packer)
Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage and Trails
Browns Creek Crew 1605 Report: August 13–20, 2005
San Isabel National Forest

by James Hammond, Crew Member

Our crew had four major projects. The first was to improve the access trail to the CT that was clogged with rocks and a channel for water. Ken Stagner headed up the project with the help of Clare Foote, Linda McEnerny, Storme Rose, Helen Stagner, and John Gaeddert and Frank Quiring, two friends from Newton, Kansas. In two days Ken’s crew successfully accomplished its mission.

The next project was to install a culvert and rehab a section of tread where horses and water had eroded the Trail and transformed it into a swamp. Crew leader John Lipe was assisted by Linda McEnerny, Storme Rose, James Hammond, Phil Lowery from Alabama, and Fred Almy. Fred used his rock bar skills to remove huge rocks from the Trail and the team mined gravel from a nearby stream and to make a firm tread. In the end the new culvert was all but invisible.

John Lipe guided the crew in constructing a bridge over Little Browns Creek where the old “bridge” consisted of a pile of logs. A rock base was built on each shore to support sills that were notched for four stringers to give stability. Finally, boards covered with chicken wire were mounted as the tread. Stan Barnes designed the bridge from bridges he had seen in Australia. The chicken wire will give traction even when covered with ice.

Bill Bloomquist and Stan Barnes were co-leaders on the final project, a 25-foot bridge spanning Browns Creek. Tomas Urquhart, whom we dubbed the project’s “stonemason,” Charles Ament, John Hackman, Richard Hackman, Robert Hunter, Michael Dorio from Maryland, John Lipe, Frank Quiring, Phil Lowery, and James Hammond all worked on the project. Gabion bags—wire baskets filled with rocks and grit—were formed to make a stable base with rocks gathered anywhere within a quarter mile. Meanwhile, Bill and Robert found suitable trees which they cut and debarked.

Sills were placed on the solid base and secured with steel rebar pounded into the gabion bags. Seven men were required to position stringers using a technique that miraculously kept everyone dry. As a coup-de-grace, the crew placed treads on the stringers both to strengthen the bridge and to make it easier to walk. Although the crew ran out of battery for the drill, did not have enough spikes, and one member lost his hard hat in the creek, we created a far safer and more durable bridge for The Colorado Trail.

Each day the crew found community around the kitchen and campfire. John Lipe’s wife Eileen Broen turned out meals so good that crew members said they ate better on the Trail than at home. Eileen’s sister, Joan Casey, also prepared meals including her fabled “Aunt Joan’s Chicken.” Joan’s daughter, Lara Casey, helped in the kitchen and was declared the salad queen for the week. The three became “The Blues Sisters” and sang a very entertaining song about the crew to the tune of “Won’t You Buy Me?” (see page 15)

Every day began and ended with a fire with Michael Dorio the main fire maker and Cherry von Stroh cutting wood for the week. This was our CT community for a week that made working on The Colorado Trail enjoyable.
CTF Cabin Work Crew: June 5–11, 2005  
by Gudy Gaskill, Crew Leader

In early summer each year a work crew sets up the CTF Educational Facility near Lake City for the year’s upcoming classes. The crew puts up our dormitory tents, and the large awning and shower stalls. Tent sites are cleaned up, firewood and trees cut, the water line cleaned and opened, “appliances” set out and started, and winter varmint nests removed. The cabin gets a thorough cleaning and, when needed, a paint job. This year a crew of eight did a tremendous job of preparing the Facility for the next week’s class, Kids’ Natural World Week.

Gudy Gaskill inventoried supplies and food and stored them in the loft. Barbara Howe moved and cleaned lumber and nests and floors and doors. A ball of fire, she pitched logs and moved mountains of rocks. Susan Schieffer brought her own chain saw and cut trees and fallen timber for five straight days. She loaded and hauled the wood up to the cabin in her pickup. Jesse Gaskill and friend Luke Dawson piled the wood as high as they could reach when they weren’t bringing in moss rock.

Jeff Tucker, from Florida, and friend George Wright from Georgia were our indispensable problem solvers. George masterminded and built, with Jeff’s help, a whole new dish washing area, complete with moss rock seats and a glorious view of White Cross Mt. A work area with a million dollar view! And with the help of Lee Van Ramshorst, our dorm tents were never so taut and waterproof nor the tent sites so level and rock free. The week ended Friday with a few hours of trail work and a blasting afternoon rain. It was a great, hard working crew! Thanks everyone.

Trails 2000 Volunteers Clear Avalanche Paths  
by Bill Manning, Executive Director; Trails 2000

Our Trails 2000 volunteers from Durango are absolutely the best. The most recent effort was a big one on The Colorado Trail on August 20. Our goal was to fix avalanche slide paths and remove overgrowth that was blocking the Trail.

Ten of us met at the Dry Forks Trailhead for the 11-mile uphill bicycle ride to the slide paths. Some of us pedaled extra hard to tow our chain saw equipment loaded on bicycle trailers. A generous horse packer carried the rest of our hand tools, including Pulaskis, McLeods, handsaws and loppers. All of us knew we were in for a big day when we felt exhaustion even before we started working. But it was a spectacular Colorado mountain day made extra beautiful by the lush greenery from all this year’s moisture. We began our tasks of removing avalanche debris and pruning growth that narrowed the Trail.

The biggest slide path had buried the Trail with a mountain of debris. Huge logs and rocks and bushes were piled so high we couldn’t tell where the Trail went. Piece by piece, the avalanche crew moved the debris, cutting it apart, and piling it elsewhere. Slowly, parts of the Trail were uncovered. In some places the avalanche had swept the Trail completely off the steep hillside and we had to rebuild the tread. We worked at a steady pace until we had completely reestablished the Trail.

Meanwhile, the lopper crew was up the Trail trimming the branches and brush that were blocking the path. They worked at a feverish pace for several hours on about a mile and a half of overgrowth that had not been trimmed in years. They made good progress and opened the Trail so it is once again user-friendly.

At the end of our workday, when the two crews met up, a glance at each other’s faces told of how hard we had worked. We were all beat, but felt great that all tasks had been accomplished. By the time we were out of the mountains each of us had put in a 12-hour day. We were pooped but gratified with a tremendous sense of accomplishment for having fixed The Colorado Trail once again.
Sometimes a particular place is so popular with the public that it begins to suffer deterioration from all the attention and use. This has been the case at the trailhead for Mount Shavano and Tabeguache Mountain in the San Isabel National Forest near Blank’s Cabin. The trailhead coincides with The Colorado Trail at mile 12.9 of Segment 14. The first few hundred yards of the Mt. Shavano / Tabeguache Trail are on the CT. Through the years, users have enlarged the parking area and encroached on the Blank’s Cabin site and adjacent spring resulting in loss of vegetation, erosion and damage to the meadow.

To rectify the situation, last year the Salida District of the San Isabel NF built a new trailhead facility including a gravel parking lot and toilet. Fencing and a gate were provided to block access to the Blank’s Cabin area. Only two things remained to make the project complete: a new trail to connect the parking lot to the CT and a buck and pole fence to keep cattle away from a spring located near Blank’s Cabin.

Brett Beasley of the Forest Service requested assistance from the CTF and CTF Operations Manager George Miller scheduled our group for the work. A crew of 23 volunteers and 3 USFS staff members took on the project on the weekend of June 18.

The first question most of the volunteers had was, “what is a buck and pole fence?” This was answered expertly by USFS representatives Nad Luchetta, Tracy Dierking and Matt Feier. Nad and Tracy along with other USFS workers cut the bucks and poles from a nearby stand of lodgepole pine. The bucks are the triangular supports for the 12-foot poles which comprise the rails of the fence. After demonstrating how to build a section of the fence, 2 crews of volunteers started building the 400-foot fence from opposite ends. Jerry Anderson supervised the crew working from the north and J.W. Lipe took the south crew. After a sputtering start, the crews hit their stride and completed the fence by mid-afternoon. The fence builders were Treasure Bailey, Scot Gorbet, Keith McGuinnnes, Mike Hogan, Jack Lipe, Don Johnson, Barbara Pattee, Jim and Patt Kerr, Fred Almy and Vincent Fitzgerald.

Meanwhile, a trail-building crew supervised by Stan Ward began building the new 300-yard connector trail. The going was difficult due to thick sod and a lack of suitable material for the trail tread but the crew prevailed and the new trail was complete, except for cleanup, by the end of the day. This crew was comprised of Clay Kirkland, Jan Waldroop, Harriet Hamilton, Art Roberts, J.R. Lipe, Anne Mills, Bobbi Ernst, Dan Griffin, Don Johnson and Barbara Pattee. Eileen Broer did a magnificent job of meal planning and kitchen management. I wish to express many, many thanks to Stan Ward and George Miller for lending a great deal of assistance while getting ready for and during my first tour as a crew leader for the CTF.

The weather was perfect and we all left camp on Sunday with a feeling of a job well done and lots of memories.

Song of the Browns Creek Crew  
by the Camp Cooks: Joan Casey, Eileen Broer Lipe, Lara Casey

(To the tune of Janis Joplin’s “Oh, Lord, Won’t You Buy Me a Mercedes Benz …”)  
Dear crew, please be careful when you pack your lunch.  
If you are forgetful, you’ll have nothing to munch!  
It sure is a long day, workin’ on the Trail,  
So please don’t leave camp without your lunch pail!

Oh, crew, won’t you build us a bridge on Brown’s Creek  
The hikers sure need it, so don’t make it weak.  
We sure will be grateful if you finish this week!  
Oh, crew, won’t you build us a bridge on Browns Creek.

The campfire’s toasty, both morning and night;
Sittin’ around it is such a delight!
Watchin’ the moon rise – a breathtaking sight!
It sure makes us sad when we must say goodnight.

Dear crew, won’t you clear us a path on the Trail  
We love our dishwashers, they are the best!
We’d be lost without them, and that is the truth,
And they volunteered! That’s the folly of youth!

Dear crew, won’t you build us a bridge on Brown’s Creek  
Swing those Pulaskis. We know you won’t fail.
We sure will be grateful if you finish this week!
Oh, crew, won’t you build us a bridge on Browns Creek.

Our lunch team is awesome, of that we’ve no doubt.
Early each morning they put it all out;
Trail mix and salad, apples and bread.
Because they’re prepared, at noon we’re well fed.

Cookin’ for twenty sure is great fun!
Even though we have to get up with the sun.
Without our great helpers, it would never get done;
And to think that we call this a swell vacation!
Rising with the sun on another beautiful Colorado day in the Rocky Mountains along The Colorado Trail. What could be better. The camp mascots bumping against my truck, wondering why I am in their meadow. The crew gets up to this wonderful new day as Liz Truitt is preparing breakfast in the cook tent and we all are looking forward to another day of working on The Colorado Trail.

From our camp at Georgia Pass we hike up the Glacier Ridge Road to where the CT crosses and heads down into the Swan River drainage toward Breckenridge. Our goal for the weekend is to start down about three miles and work back up the Trail to cut any fallen trees and build rolling dips in the meadows where water has taken over the Trail. We have a strong crew and should be able to get all of this done in the two days.

Diane Parker, the adopter for this segment of the Trail, is along to guide us to sites where work is needed. Most of our crew members are old hands on the CT. They know what needs to be done and how to do it. Rhonda Weiler, Ken Nakauchi, Donna and Richard Rufner have all worked with me in the past. Roxy Johnston worked on the training weekend crew in June and has volunteered in the CTF office. The crew is rounded out with James Ernst, Tom Meads, Mark Spangler, Kelly Bitner and Doug Weers, all of whom brought to the project both enthusiasm and a willingness to work.

Our progress on the Trail resulted in a mile of improved tread, eight new rolling dips, and a tree removed that was across the Trail. It was a good weekend of work on The Colorado Trail.

I want to thank the crew members for their efforts on behalf of the CT Foundation and also thank Liz for the great food that kept us all going. Also thanks go to our camp mascots for early morning entertainment. But maybe 3:00 a.m. is a little early to be entertained.
Our primary task was to replace Trail posts with combination CT/CDT logos from Tennessee Pass to Kokomo Pass, a distance of 12.4 miles. On Saturday we split into two groups with one working toward Kokomo (5.8 miles) and the other working toward Tennessee (6.6 miles). The combined crew dug holes and installed 15 posts that day. Lynn Mattingly and John MacPherson were the “placement team” for the Tennessee Pass crew, and Michael Mesdag led the crew toward Kokomo. Veteran Trail builders Roger Gomas, Roy Leonard and Roy Senyard were huge assets on our crew lending expertise in many ways during the weekend.

On Sunday Patricia Demchak, Lee Shainis, Roy and Roy headed up toward Kokomo to clear some trees and open the Trail while the rest of us spent the day widening the Trail. Debbie and Ralph Ploeger worked on a section near Cataract Creek Falls. Our crew of the Lee family (Chip, Hannah and Mat Lee), Julie Mesdag, Beth Killebrew, and Garret Gomas, plus Lynn, John and Roger widened Trail near Mitchell Creek. We widened quite a bit of the CT and made the tread more comfortable to walk on.
Outdoor Classes Were the Place to Be!

by Gudy Gaskill

Billowy cumulus clouds etched into the azure sky. Cool winds sweeping across the flower-laden meadows and swiftly moving steams pouring off from the melt of the deep winter snows. Those are memories that will always linger in the mind.

CTF classes held at our Educational Center near Lake City were encompassed in this alluring scene. High mountain snow remained through the summer and kept streams moving at a fast pace. Bugs were at their all time low and the weather remained comfortable. The CTF cabin was the place to be this summer to escape the summer heat.

Although several classes were canceled due to low advance registration, the classes that were held were a real success. Both instructors and participants had a great time learning and teaching in this superb high-mountain valley.

The Kids’ Natural World class had 8 youngsters ranging in ages of 5 through 11. Five adults and the instructor, Polly Gaskill, were on hand to guide the activities. Gudy’s memories of the week include kids waiting in line for their five-minute crank on the ice cream freezer and the wetness of the “dishwater” fights. Snow banks blocked the trails so fun was had glissading on feet and seats, storytelling and campfires, drawings and clay projects, hikes and log build-ups.

The geology class, too, had problems with the lingering snow. A couple of field trips did not reach their destination because snow blocked the trail and swift streams had washed out bridges. Dave Gaskill, Gudy’s husband, who came for part of the week, said Pete Varney’s geology lectures the San Juans and “geology in a nutshell,” were the best he had heard! It was a rewarding week with well versed participants, great field trips and a class that collected a record number of rocks.

The oil and watercolor class elected to paint watercolor in a week with lots of instruction and demonstrations. The flowers were just coming into bloom and the subject matter was different and interesting. Instructor George Callison made sure that we learned basic principles and the how’s and why’s of painting with watercolors. I learned how little I really knew about how to have them come out right the FIRST time. We all produced a lot and had a great time. Next summer this class will be offered for college credit through Adams State College and teacher enhancement credits.

And what a week we had for wildflowers! It was such an eager, energetic group of participants that our instructor, Lori Brummer, said, “If I had another group as interested as this group, I would beg to be the instructor!” The flowers were magical. Fields and fields as far as the eye could see. The class meandered slowly for time to drink in the beauty with mind and eye. Evening campfires with friends and neighbors made for a wonderful week that went by too quickly.

Judy Morgan, a true plein air painter, filled in to teach the watercolor class for Marge Barge who had to have surgery. She taught with many demonstrations—some radically different and inspiring and others that were amazing. Our heads swam with new information and styles. We had great painting spots, long days, and accomplished lots with daily critiques and evening walks.

Sandi Beard, a geology student, came back to help out with the chores. She would go hiking each day while Gudy was able to paint with the class. Great help, great helpful class and lots of new friends!
New Guidebook Scheduled for Next Spring

Production “Relay Team” Hard at Work

Armed with two GPS’s, a voice recorder, notebooks, backpack and accompanied by Zappa the dog, Jerry Brown completed his fourth tour of the CT on July 29. This time Jerry was collecting data for the new 7th edition of the CT Guidebook. And almost the next day he was at his computer writing Trail descriptions for each of the 28 segments of the CT.

With this current, first-hand description of the Trail, Merle McDonald picked up the ball to write introductory material, trailhead directions, tips on supplies and services and other facts important to CT users. Next in the Guidebook “relay team” is Terry Root, Editor at Colorado Mountain Club Press. As he did with our 6th edition, Terry will check all facts, edit the text, add more supportive information and, from hundreds of collected photographs, chose those that best depict the Trail.

The final member of the team is Alan Stark of CMC Press who will manage the publication process projected to culminate with arrival of the new edition in mid-April next year. Other “team members” in the process are all the CT volunteers and friends who over the last couple of years have sent us information and suggestions for the Guidebook. We applaud and thank you.

This is the team that’s hard at work and the process that’s underway to produce a new, up-to-date Guidebook for The Colorado Trail.

Food Donations for Trail Crews

The following companies generously supported Colorado Trail crews this summer. They have donated food or reduced foot costs for CT crews for several years. We appreciate their generosity and support for the Trail.

Alamo Distributors, Inc.  tortilla chips
Rocky Mountain Foods  trail mix
Madhava Honey, Ltd.  honey
Kuner Empson Co.  canned vegetables
King Soopers  gift certificate
Anderson Boneless Beef, Inc.  brisket

If you have contacts with a company that might donate non-perishable food to our Trail crews, please contact the CTF office or call Pat Nagorka, 303-841-2777, with the company name and who to contact.

Volunteers gathered at the home of Pat Nagorka on Memorial Day weekend to pack food for the CTF Trail crews.
Trekking from Kenosha Pass to Durango  

by Pete and Lisa Turner, Trek Managers

This summer eight weeks of supported hiking treks were led from Kenosha Pass to Durango, almost 400 miles of the Trail. The treks started at Kenosha Pass on June 19 and ended in Durango the first time on July 30. The program then returned to San Luis Pass above Creede and trekked the 122 miles to Durango for the second time, ending on August 13. This year 93 people hiked with the treks with an average of 12 hikers each week.

In the first six weeks hikers encountered little rain! Who was the lucky charm? During the last two weeks, however, the monsoons came in and made up for moisture that was lacking earlier in the summer. It didn’t rain every day so we were still lucky with the weather.

We had some tremendous days of hiking. One day on Section 7 we had incredible fog as it worked its way in and around the rocky crags on Indian Trail Ridge. The hikers who experienced that day will never forget it. Who would think fog could be so majestic?

After finally getting an average winter of snow, how did the snow affect the hikes? The largest snowfields we encountered were in the Tenmile range between Gold Hill and Wheeler Flats where in the trees the snow was more than four feet deep. But it was solid snow that enabled us to walk on top. Other parts of the Trail had snowfields we were able to navigate. The snow produced incredibly tall fields of vibrantly colored flowers in the San Juans and the beauty of the flowers awed us all.

Jerry Brown joined the treks for six weeks from Kenosha Pass to Durango to gather data for the new edition of the Colorado Trail Guide. We’re all anxious to see the new Guidebook!

We tried to think of the best aspects of the supported trekking program and came up with the following list:

1. Only having to carry a light daypack while hiking.
2. Enjoying different views and scenery every day.
3. Not having to plan and cook our own meals.
4. Meeting the other people on the trek.
5. Listening to stories of through hikers as they join us for meals and assistance.
6. Not having to worry about vehicle shuttles, logistics and where to get water.
7. Supporting The Colorado Trail!
8. Enjoying a shower with two gallons of water.

We want to thank all our crew members who helped with the trekking program this summer. There’s a lot of hard work in moving the camp almost every day, handling logistics and dealing with weather. You were fantastic.

Begin to get ready for a trek in 2006! The schedule of hiking sections next summer should be out by the middle of January. Let’s hike the CT!
“Sixteen Miles of CT Sold to Folks from Oklahoma”

How’s that again? But that’s how CT Adopters Stew Brown and Stan Barnes headed their recent report to the CTF office. Stew and Stan had set up at Browns Creek Trailhead and Chalk Creek Trailhead on two days this summer to spread the word about the CTF. With a CT Banner, card table, brochures and mileage cards, they talked to everyone who would listen about how the CT was built and is maintained by volunteers. Names and addresses of potential CTF Friends were collected and sent back to the office for our mailing list.

We are looking for more CT Friends and Adopters to join our 2006 Outreach Project team. If you like to talk to people and have a day or two free to set up a station at your favorite CT trailhead, please let us know and we’ll send you the supplies.

Marian Phillips, CT Office
Janet Farrar, AAT Coordinator

“Thanks for Your Friendship”

Seven years ago my life changed when I joined a CTF trail crew. From that week with Merle, Uta, Jill, Ken, Chuck, Lois, Tracy, Laura and other volunteers, I discovered the world of friendships born while learning to use a Pulaski, nurtured while climbing a 14er on Wednesday, and appreciated every year when we meet again on trail crews, picnics, mailing parties and other CT volunteer projects. Being part of the CTF office staff for five years has been a dream job as I have worked with so many of our dedicated, talented and fun-loving CTF friends, from Board presidents to far-flung adopters. I have had the great pleasure of meeting and communicating by phone or e-mail with so many of you. Thanks to Marian, Liz and Pat, we have shared many good times in the CT office. My permanent move to Silverthorne has caused me to look for a job closer to home but I intend to continue on, as many of you have, as a CT volunteer. See you on the Trail.

–Suzanne Reed

Volunteer Coordinators Marian Phillips and Suzanne Reed.
WANTED: A CTF Ski Team

Do you downhill ski, cross-country ski or skate? Are you 55 years of age or older? We would like to put together a team to enter in the Senior Games at Breckenridge after the first weekend in February 2006. This is a fun time, competitive for some, and a chance to ski with others your age. Ernie and Barbara Werren and Gudy Gaskill have been participating for a number of years. Not only is it fun, but it is also incentive to get in shape or stay in shape. There are races in speed skating, figure skating, giant and downhill slalom, cross-country 2 and 5 K, biathlon, relay, skate 5 K, snowshoe and such other variations as hockey puck and snowball throws. The games are generally on a Monday and Tuesday with a spaghetti dinner the night before. Please let Gudy know if you are interested and we’ll plan carpooling and overnight accommodations. Don’t wait. Keep in shape! Call Gudy at 303-526-2721 or e-mail gudyct@ecentral.com.

SOLD OUT

The Colorado Trail: the Official Guidebook, 6th edition, is out of stock. You may be able to find a copy through your local bookstore or on-line bookstore. The CTF office is accepting the names and contact information (no pre-orders) of individuals who would like to be contacted when the 7th edition is available. You can e-mail us at ctf@coloradotrail.org, or watch the CTF website, www.coloradotrail.org, for a publication announcement.

CTF Office Hours

Beginning Monday, October 17, until mid-November, the CTF office will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. You can always leave a phone message on our voice mail or send an e-mail message and we will contact you as soon as possible. Phone: 303-384-3729; e-mail: ctf@coloradotrail.org.

Look at Our Website!!

The CTF website, www.coloradotrail.org, has served our CT users well—the armchair adventurer as well as the hiker, biker and equestrian looking for information on our high-mountain, long-distance, non-motorized Trail. Thanks to Richard Nolde, our original webmaster. Wes Ganter who helped us expand this valuable CTF resource, and now Valerie Miller who plans to redesign and update the entire site. Make sure www.coloradotrail.org is in your internet browser favorites list.

CT Cabin Available for Winter Use

Do you know that the CTF Educational Facility cabin is available for winter use? Efforts have been made to make this easier for anyone wanting to do a several-day ski tour in a gorgeous, high-mountain location. The cabin sleeps seven and has five sleeping bags cached to lighten your load. Such basic food as tea, coffee, hot cereals, pancake and biscuit mixes, is stocked in the cabinets. A couple of dates have already been reserved so don’t wait long to call Gudy Gaskill for details: 303-526-2721.
The Colorado Trail Store

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<td>The Colorado Trail Marker, 4¾” high triangular plastic marker used to sign the CT</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTF Watercolor Notecards, two series of ten cards/envelopes painted by Colorado artists. Series 1___ and 2___ sold separately for $9.75 each or both sets for $17.75</td>
<td>$9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Item: Colorado Trail T-Shirts: Short sleeved, 100% cotton with CT logo embroidered in gold. Forest green. S, M, L, XL. Size____</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Item: Colorado Trail Mock T’s: Long sleeved, 100% heavy weight cotton with CT logo embroidered in gold. Ivy Green and Lake Blue. M, L, XL Size____ Color____</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close-out CT T-Shirts: Short sleeved, 50/50 blend, CT map on front, segments on back. Khaki brown, Royal blue, Birch gray. S, M, L, XL. Size____ Color____ Call for Availability</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Item: CT Baseball Cap, cotton with suede bill, embroidered CT logo</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Item: Stocking Cap: Knitted stocking cap, black with grey embroidered CT logo</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Item: Bandana: 100% cotton, forest green with CT logo and map design in gold</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Item: Travel Mug: Clip Grip mug w/carabiner clip handle, 16 oz., green w/white logo</td>
<td>$9.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Colorado Trail Embroidered Patches, CT logo or Completion</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Colorado Trail Official Pins, CT logo, 200-mile or 300-mile</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue Cards, 1 year card (please include date of birth on order form)</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 year card</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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Shipping Information:

Name: ____________________________________________
Street: __________________________________________
City: _____________________________________________
State: ________ Zip: ________
E-mail: __________________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________

Send Credit Card information by U.S. Mail, Fax or Telephone Only:

MC/VISA Number: ___________________________ (number must begin with a 4 or 5)
Card Expiration Date: _________________________
Name on Card (print): _________________________
Cardholder Signature: _________________________

Subtotal of Items:

Shipping: if your order is:
$0.00 – $8.00 add $2.00
$8.01 – $20.00 add $5.00
over $20.01 add $6.00

Subtotal with Shipping
Sales Tax: Colorado Residents add 2.9% tax

Total Enclosed:

Mail or Fax order form to:
The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th St., #210, Golden, CO 80401
Fax: (303) 384-3743
Phone: (303) 384-3729
E-mail: ctf@coloradotrail.org
Website: www.coloradotrail.org

Tread Lines Fall 2005
I am a Friend! I want to support The Colorado Trail Foundation. Here is my annual contribution as a “Friend of The Colorado Trail.”

Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund  $ _______

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$1,000+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My employer offers Matching Funds and I will apply for them. □

I’m ready to volunteer too!
☐ I want to work on a Trail Crew. Please send information.
☐ I’d like information about Adopters of CT sections.
☐ I will help out with office and other volunteer activities.

Name(s): ___________________________ MC/VISA #: ___________________________
Address: ____________________________________________ Expiration Date: __________
City: ___________________________________________ Name on Card: _______________________
State: ___________ Zip ____________
Telephone: ___________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Credit Card Number must begin with a 4 or 5
Please Print

The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th Street, Suite 210
Golden, CO  80401-5843
www.coloradotrail.org

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The Colorado Trail
Volunteers Make It Happen!