The Colorado Trail has been described as one of the best trails anywhere, one of the most scenic and among the best maintained. Volunteers of the Colorado Trail Foundation are committed to keeping it that way.

Those of us who have experienced the Trail know how special it is. We have feasted our eyes on the vast, high mountain landscapes, been humbled by our smallness, struck by the solitude, and reminded how we fit into the world of nature. We have encountered dramatic changes in weather, come upon an assortment of wildlife, breathed the crisp air and smelled the forest. Thanks to The Colorado Trail, we have shared these wonderful experiences with family and friends and count them as cherished memories.

Even though it is so special, in many ways the Trail is a fragile thing. A simple dirt path, it is highly impacted by Mother Nature every year. Trees come down across it with surprising frequency, water from rain and snow melt erodes deep cuts in the tread, and both tree and bush growth narrows the path. Without the continuous efforts of CTF volunteers, The Colorado Trail would soon disintegrate and disappear.

Beginning more than 30 years ago, hundreds of volunteers teamed up to build and establish almost 500 miles of Trail from Denver to Durango. It crosses 8 ranges of the Rocky Mountains topping out at 13,334 feet elevation. It travels through 6 wildernesses and many diverse ecosystems. Ever since the pieces of tread were linked together to form the long-distance Trail, volunteers have worked to maintain and improve it. In the summer of 2006 nearly 700 volunteers joined in this effort as members of Trail crews, adopters and workers behind the scenes.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is the organization of volunteers that continues this legacy of caring for the Trail. We are the volunteers and contributors who work and donate to sustain the Trail. We are the volunteer leaders and program coordinators. We are the Board Members seeking to fulfill the Foundation’s mission.

Once you experience The Colorado Trail you know it is worthy of our stewardship. The Trail affords us a premier opportunity to escape our busy, urban lives and experience nature at its best. Being involved with the Colorado Trail Foundation is a great way to give back to this Trail that we so enjoy.
Many of you have connected with the Colorado Trail Foundation office this summer and have glimpsed the busy blur. In addition to processing all the crew, adopter and donor information, the CTF office has provided assistance to countless users of the Trail.

This season’s Trail work was very successful and, thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, we accomplished both routine Trail maintenance and major improvements. The office received a lot of upbeat feedback from people who valued their involvement. They said they had fun doing Trail work.

Many Trail users communicated with the CTF office and sought information about the Trail. There were positive reports about both the new Guidebook and Databook which users found very helpful in trip planning and route finding. CTF staff members and volunteers provided information about Trail conditions, access, services, shuttles, GPS . . . you name it. Trail users have been appreciative. Just take a look at the feedback from a troop of Oklahoma Boy Scouts on Page 3.

Office systems got a boost recently with the arrival of two new computers and updated software. They’re working much better than the old ones and are an important cog in making the office more efficient. We are working toward a new database as well as streamlined accounting and merchandise systems—all to enhance CTF efficiency. These efforts are being coordinated between staff and the Board of Directors through Board President Marilyn Eisele and the Executive Committee.

We thank all of you Friends of The Colorado Trail who continue to support the Colorado Trail Foundation through your volunteerism and contributions. We need and appreciate all your help in sustaining the Trail.△

**Cataract Ridge Reroute Continued from page 1**

Cataract Lake to a point two miles from Stony Pass.

A few hikers already have navigated the route with such glowing reports as this one from Guy Mott, a through-hiker who completed the Trail in August:

“The summer of 2006 I realized an 18 year goal—I hiked The Colorado Trail from end to end. The best decision I made, besides deciding to hike the Trail in the first place, was taking the new Cataract Ridge reroute.

I had obtained the Trail map and GPS waypoints off the Bear Creek Survey webpage. It didn’t take me long to decide that, rather than follow ATV tracks and dodge cow pies for the privilege of wading Pole Creek, I would rather stay up in the clear air along the Divide and keep my feet dry.

After diverging from the CT at Cataract Lake I was greeted by a climb up a pleasant valley with a picturesque waterfall and, in a rock cleft by the trail, a half-dozen beautiful Colorado columbines (this was looking good already). Over the headwall and around by Half Peak, the Rocky Mountain weather began to dominate and I trudged through a hail storm (so much for dry feet).

Sometimes marked by cairns, sometimes marked by trail tread or by flags where tread will go, and sometimes not yet marked at all, this new route traverses headwalls above high valleys, circles around impressive Canby Peak, crosses another valley or two and an absolutely lovely little drainage and then lets out onto a long, high, broad ridge (almost but not quite a mesa) on its way to re-join the regular Colorado Trail at the top of Elk Creek Valley. Along the way are spectacular views of peaks above Lake City and Silverton, many high mountain lakes, and if you’re lucky as I was, a herd of elk and an early morning rainbow.”△

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Thanks from Oklahoma Boy Scouts

The following message of appreciation was received in the CTF Office in July.

I hope this email doesn’t take time away from the wonderful work that you do but I felt I had to say thank you somehow. Last week, our Boy Scout group backpacked CT Segments 15 and 14 northbound. I guided the group of 11 of our older Scouts and adult leaders after we had spent a week at San Isabel Scout Ranch. For all but one of the Scouts, this was their first backpacking trek and first time on a mountain trail. We planned the trip for six months and used the Trail Guide and maps from the CTF map CD.

What an absolutely wonderful experience! The youth navigated the Trail easily using maps and compasses. The Trail was well marked and exceptionally well maintained. We walked right through a Trail crew camp and were impressed by all the switchbacks and newly completed work from Raspberry Gulch to Chalk Creek. We tried to find the Trail crew members to thank them, but being near July Fourth, they must have taken a break or “town afternoon.” It was evident by their tools and expertise in re-carving the Trail with the erosion controls and drains that it was backbreaking work.

All folks we met on the Trail were friendly and courteous (outside a few ATV drivers trying to run the Trail in the Marshall Pass area). With smiles and greetings, mountain bikers pulled off for our group to pass whenever the Trail was single-track. We met only six through-hikers.

What surprised me most was the absolute lack of litter and human vandalism. I’ve been to wilderness recreational areas all over the globe and the CT (at least the two segments we traveled) is the cleanest environment I’ve ever experienced. It was the perfect place to reinforce the “Leave No Trace” training that we give to the Scouts.

I downloaded Bear Creek Survey’s most recent GPS Waypoints (re-colored them) and loaded them onto the Scouts’ maps and into my Lowrance GPS. I used the GPS only to check progress—the Scouts used the maps. The points were absolutely correct.

Filterable water was readily available everywhere along the Trail except for about a four-mile stretch south of Chalk Creek.

I’ve taken enough of your time, but I just want to say thank you again for stewardship of this amazing Trail and giving our young people such a wonderful place to experience the high country and Colorado.

—Wayne Balsavich, Troop 17, 500 NE 14th St., Moore, Oklahoma 73160

Good Marks for the CTF Hike and Climb Workshop

The following note was received from Dorothy House, Flagstaff, Arizona, who participated in the workshop this summer.

I participated in the Colorado Trail Foundation’s Hike and Climb Workshop in August and want to thank and commend everyone involved in that program. The experience was a deeply moving one for me, allowing me to see Colorado’s San Juan Mountains from a new and stunning perspective. While I have traveled through the San Juans many times, I have seen any number of photographs, and had an academic sense of their scope and origin, seeing the scale of the range from the summits of some of its highest peaks provided an entirely different and visceral understanding. The fact that this new perspective was hard won made it all the richer and more memorable.

I thank each of the individuals who took time out of their lives to share with us their knowledge and love of the mountains: Gudy Gaskill, for making it possible through decades of labor and for the spectacular meals she repeatedly whipped up; Dave Gaskill for his vast geological knowledge of the area (and knowledge of an astonishing array of many other things as well), great good humor, and fireside companionship; and Jerry Brown, for his guidance, generosity, mountaineering and mapping knowledge, and all-around good company (not the least of Jerry’s contributions was the fine act of bringing along his sweet wife Dee Dee deHaro-Brown who added much to the social glue that bound the group together). I save for last my special thanks to Connie Wian, who saw to it that I made it to the tops of those peaks. She, more than anyone else, made it possible for me to know firsthand what scaling a 14,000-foot mountain means. I learned much from her example.
2006 Another Successful Year for Volunteer Trail Crews

Question: What can CTF Crew Volunteers accomplish in a single trail work season?

Answer: Extraordinary trail care—just look at the statistics—the CTF Crews succeeded again. Every year they repair and improve lengthy segments of the Trail. They widen, rebuild, and realign The Colorado Trail!

The volunteers work hard to lessen the impacts of Mother Nature who topples huge trees and sends rivers of rainwater that erodes the Trail. This year, Crew Volunteers cut and removed fallen trees that were blocking the Trail and constructed water diversions including culverts, rolling dips and water bars. They removed debris and repaired the tread. They built switchbacks, bridges, and moved the path to better locations. They did this by contributing umpteen hours of hard work out in the forest. Why? Because they’re dedicated to the Trail and . . . because it’s fun.

As long-time-crew-volunteer Ken Stagner crisply put it, “Met a lot of fun people. Made a contribution so others can have fun. Had some fun myself.” From crew reports posted on the CTF web site (go to www.coloradotrail.org then navigate to Trail Crews > 2006 Trail Crew Reports & Photos), his fellow crew members clearly agree.

Hundreds of Crew Volunteers worked on The Colorado Trail this year. See the names of each volunteer and the crew lists on the newsletter insert, pages 5 and 6.

Crew members had a good time and it was a good summer for The Colorado Trail.

2006 CTF Trail Crew Work Statistics:
✓ 21 Crews
✓ 324 Crew Volunteers
✓ 20.4 miles of Trail improved
✓ 16,380 feet of alignment & switchback building
✓ 97 fallen trees cut & removed
✓ 304 water diversions (culverts, rolling dips & water bars)
✓ 2 log crib retaining walls
✓ 91 rock cairns plus new trail markers & signs
✓ 650 feet of fence
✓ 2 new bridges (in wilderness)
✓ 16 week-long and 5 weekend crews (in just 65 days between June 9 & August 12)
✓ 13,337 hours of volunteer work (some 1,694 days of hard work out in the forest)
✓ countless hours of fun & friends

It’s amazing to review all the Trail improvements accomplished by CTF Crew Volunteers and to realize that this work is just a portion of the annual effort. Also instrumental in caring for the CT are all the Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers who work on their adopted sections each year to remove fallen trees, clean water diversions, replace signs . . . you name it. Wow, the Colorado Trail Foundation is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. Hats off to our Crews and Adopters!
Thank You Trail Crew Volunteers!

Be sure to read the 2006 Trail Crew Reports and view photos on our website at: www.coloradotrail.org then navigate to Trail Crews > 2006 Trail Crew Reports & Photos

2006 Flex Crew (included Crews 0206, WE1, and WE2) Top of the World

Leaders: John Lipe and Stan Ward
Charlotte Aycrigg • Denver, CO
Teresa Bagshaw • Crawford, CO
Jim Ballantyne • Lakewood, CO
Larry Ballantyne • Lakewood, CO
Bill Bloomquist • Conifer, CO
Larry Eads • Durango, CO
Jane Jones • Grand Junction, CO
Lisa Gerondale • Littleton, CO
Janice Gerondale • Littleton, CO
Samuel Davis • Centennial, CO
Thomas M. Couts • Aurora, CO
Bruce Ruis • Centennial, CO
Howard Crisp • Traverse City, MI
John Sylvester • Sedalia, CO
Justin Milan • CO
Doug Burttard • Centennial, CO
Howard Crisp • Traverse City, MI

0106 Junction Creek
Leader: Art Rankin
Mike Dorio • Boerne, TX
Marilyn Eisele • Castle Rock, CO
Rick Eisele • Castle Rock, CO
Laura Farmer • Palisade, CO
Ted La May • Durango, CO
Jill Ozaki • Frisco, CO
Joe Ozaki • Frisco, CO
Patricia Spitzer • Austin, TX

0306 Mt. Elbert
Leaders: Phil Smith and Mac Smith
Glynnis Cox • Castle Rock, CO
Raymond Cox • Castle Rock, CO
Karina Heiser • Silverthorne, CO
Dallas Peterson • Greeley, CO
Debbie Ploeger • Grand Junction, CO
Ralph Ploeger • Grand Junction, CO
Betsy Sylvester • Sedalia, CO
John Sylvester • Sedalia, CO

0406 Mt. Elbert
Leader: Dale A. Zoeteway
Kathryn Boyer • Houston, TX
Renee C.M. Brune • Pittsburgh, PA
Daniell Clackler • Interlocken, FL
Kelly Clackler • Interlocken, FL
Donald Clayson • Franktown, CO
Carolyn Emanuel • Grand Junction, CO
Robert Hunter • Denver, CO
Justin Milan • CO
James Mitchell • Lone Tree, CO
Tonya Mitchell • Lone Tree, CO
Jane Prentiss • Houston, TX
Bruce Ruiss • Centennial, CO
Alexis Saghie • Durango, CO
Lisa J. Snelling • Lakewood, CO
Jessica Sorci • Arvada, CO
Ken Swrerenga • Parker, CO
Brooks Taylor • Durango, CO
Janice Taylor • Durango, CO
Jillie Terpstra • Lakewood, CO
Donald Van Wyke • Denver, CO
Cory Zoeteway • Lone Tree, CO
Ryan Zoeteway • Denver, CO

Crew 0506
Leader: Ernie Norris
Carolyn Burttard • Centennial, CO
Doug Burttard • Centennial, CO
Ernie Werren • Silverthorne, CO
Larry Eads • Durango, CO
Anthony L. Howell • Colorado Springs, CO
James Kleckner • Minturn, CO
Patricia La May • Durango, CO
Ted La May • Durango, CO
Ray Landfair • Cedar, MI
Lawrence Mack • Colorado Springs, CO
James McIntosh • St. Charles, MO
Ann Norris • Durango, CO
Jill Ozaki • Frisco, CO
Jennifer Rector • Durango, CO
Suzanne Reed • Silverthorne, CO
Pat Spitzer • Austin, TX
Bruce Thill • Midland, MI
Bryan Wendt • Hesperus, CO

0606 Lost Park
Leader: Chuck Lawson
Drue M. Banta • Evanston, IL
Laura Becker • Denver, CO
Dick Blue • Dripping Springs, TX
William Carpenter • Boulder, CO
Haley Choi • Englewood, CO
Andrew Hammond • Denver, CO
Bruce Kramlich • Englewood, CO
Linda K. Lawson • Greenwood Village, CO
Kyle Steven Lohman • Englewood, CO
Julie Mc Cuollough • Littleton, CO
Del Militare • Denver, CO
Eric Peterson • Denver, CO
Taylor Portman • Englewood, CO
Matt Staver • Denver, CO
Beverly Vasten-Frome • Collbran, CO

0906 Cochetopa Creek
Leaders: Jon Greeneisen and Marylin Greeneisen
Joe “Greyowl” Barrett • Pryor, OK
Mitchell Brown • Pueblo, CO
William Carpenter • Boulder, CO
Samuel Davis • Centennial, CO
John Dowd • Boulder, CO
Bob Fetterman • Pepperell, MA
Dana Fetterman • Pepperell, MA
Garrett Gomas • Falcon, CO
Roger Gomas • Colorado Springs, CO
Ryan B. Gomas • Falcon, CO
DeWey Hill • Castle Rock, CO
Kathleen Howard • Scottsdale, AZ
Paul Njaa • Mesa, AZ
Sandy Njaa • Mesa, AZ
Leigh Sekelien • Chico, CA
Mark Sekelien • Manassas, VA
Robert Sekelien • Denver, CO
Brooks Taylor • Durango, CO

1006 & 1106 Stony Pass
Leader: George Miller
John Boreiko • Lexington, MA
Erik Coler • New York, NY
Chris Felicita • Madison, CT
Max Kaplan • Bala Cynwyd, PA
Alex Marz • Lexington, MA
Greg Maxson • Post Mills, VT
Zach Roward • Tucson, AZ
Joshua Saxe • Madison, CT
Justin Schwecther • Libertyville, IL
Ryan Slade • Montvale, NJ
Steven Kin • Midland, MI
Peter Owen • Midland, MI

1206 Miners Creek
Leader: Stan Ward
Fred W. Almy • Lakewood, CO
Kyle Brooksher • Centennial, CO
Tom Brooksher • Centennial, CO
William Carpenter • Boulder, CO
Carol Clapp • Plano, TX
Kevin Clapp • Plano, TX
C. Leland Ellison • Boulder, CO
Steve Espinoza • Colorado Springs, CO
Laura Farmer • Palisade, CO
Pat Fuji • Torrance, CA
Tak Fuji • Torrance, CA
Terry Hardie • Lafayette, CO
Sam House • Dickinson, TX
Cindy Johnson • Lakewood, CO
Eric Johnson • Lakewood, CO
Sarah Johnson • Lakewood, CO

Crew 1206 continued on page 6
Crew 1206 continued from page 5

Bob Miner • Palmer Lake, CO
Susan Miner • Palmer Lake, CO
Sue Palmer • Denver, CO
Bryant Reinking • Silverthorne, CO
Daniel T. Russell • Aurora, CO
Shawn Russell • Aurora, CO
Adrianné Stone • Colorado Springs, CO
Heather Stone • Colorado Springs, CO
Ron Stone • Colorado Springs, CO
Sally Stone • Fayetteville, AR
Ernest Svetecz • Wyomissing, PA
Frank Svetecz • Colorado Springs, CO

1306 Cataract Ridge
Leader: Merle McDonald
Ruth Altmeier • Saarbrueken, Germany
Bill Bloomquist • Conifer, CO
Dick Blue • Dripping Springs, TX
John C. IV Eagerton • Sprague, AL
Richard (Dick) Hackman • Willow Street, PA
Harriet Hamilton • Breckenridge, CO
Steve Kin • Midland, MI
Bill Kobrin • Lafayette, CO
Stefan Komarek • Overland Park, KS
Bernhardt Loesle • Saarbrueken, Germany
Uta McDonald • Colorado Springs, CO
Bev Mulholland • Grand Junction, CO
Pete Owens
Jill Ozaki • Frisco, CO
Joe Ozaki • Frisco, CO
Benjamin Qualls • Pagosa Springs, CO
Charlton P. Sturm • Mascoutah, IL
Dana Townsend • Manhattan, KS
Harvard Townsend • Manhattan, KS
Allison Westfall • Pagosa Springs, CO

1406 & 1506 Miners Creek
Leaders: Phil Smith and Mae Smith
Andrew Arnett • Parker, CO
Ben Arnold • Castle Rock, CO
Clinton Britt • Houston, TX
Steve Brockmeyer • Castle Rock, CO
Dylan Buddeke • Castle Rock, CO
Justin Clawson • Castle Rock, CO
Glynnis Cox • Sedalia, CO
Diana Dikovsky • Brooklyn, NY
Sergey Dikovsky • Brooklyn, NY
Bobbi L. Ernst • Evergreen, CO
Alison Gegg • Franktown, CO
Kelly Gorham • Castle Rock, CO
Jacob La Bue • Castle Rock, CO
Alexandra Livingood • Castle Rock, CO
David Lopez Nevis • Castle Rock, CO
George Miller • Manitou Springs, CO
Debbie Ploeger • Grand Junction, CO
Ralph Ploeger • Grand Junction, CO
Barry Schrimsher • Huntsville, AL
Devin Williams • Castle Rock, CO
Brian Wood • Denver, CO
Ben Wright • Highlands Ranch, CO

1606 Cataract Ridge
Leader: Jerry Brown
Marilyn Eisele • Castle Rock, CO
Elizabeth Hall • Arvada, CO
Bill Kaewart • Niwot, CO
Sarah Kaewart • Niwot, CO
John Marksbury • Olathe, KS
Erika Marksbury-Page • Ottawa, KS
Suzanne Reed • Silverthorne, CO
Charlton P. Sturm • Muncouth, IL

1706 Mt. Elbert
Leaders: Phil Smith and Mae Smith
Marcus Bass • Bloomington, IN
Garry Bell • Franklin, OH
Robert Bell • Germantown, OH
Carolyn Benoit • Denver, CO
William Carpenter • Boulder, CO
Thomas M. Couts • Aurora, CO
Glynnis Cox • Castle Rock, CO
W. Anthony Cox • Castle Rock, CO
Bobbi L. Ernst • Evergreen, CO
Brett Ernst • Evergreen, CO
David Guthrie • Omaha, NE
Ryan Guthrie • Omaha, NE
James Hammond • Denver, CO
Johnathan Osborn • Castle Rock, CO
Lois Osborn • Castle Rock, CO
Maureen C. • Pryor • Littleton, CO
David Ribar • Omaha, NE
Patrick Ribar • Omaha, NE
Betsy Sylvester • Sedalia, CO
John Sylvester • Sedalia, CO
Howard Weatherhead • Denver, CO
Mark A. West, Jr. • Castle Rock, CO

Crew WE3
Leader: Bill Manning
Chuck Bearden • Smithland, KY
Emily Bearden • Boaz, KY
Charles Condeyre • Arvada, CO
Larry Davis • Littleton, CO
Lisa Estrada • Denver, CO
Dan Griffin • Denver, CO
John Gunderman • Arvada, CO
Thomas M. Hurja • Denver, CO
Jim Kerr • Denver, CO
Patt Kerr • Denver, CO
Art Roberts • Boulder, CO
Cindy Somers-Griffin • Denver, CO
Rhonda Weiler • Colorado Springs, CO
Treska Womble • Kevil, KY

WE4 Blanks Cabin
Leader: John Lipe
Fred W. Almy • Lakewood, CO
Eileen • Broer • Castle Rock, CO
Anne Caddock • Centennial, CO
Tom Croke • Dublin, Ireland
Eugene Mac Namee • Dublin, Ireland
Travis Mann • Lakewood, CO
Tim McCandless • Westminister, CO
Art Roberts • Boulder, CO
C. T. • Westgard • Golden, CO
Sandi Westgard • Golden, CO
Nancy Woodson • Morrison, CO

WE5 Kenosha Pass
Leader: Cindy Johnson
William R. Brown • Denver, CO
Patricia Demchak • Boulder, CO
Jamie Gaskill-Fox • Fort Collins, CO
Nathan Gaskill-Fox • Fort Collins, CO
We apologize if any names were misspelled or inadvertently left off the volunteer list. Please notify us with changes or if you were missed.

Thank You Food Donors!

The Colorado Trail Foundation greatly appreciates the continued support of these companies and encourages the patronage of these companies by volunteers and Friends of the Trail:

- Alamo Distributors
  - Mia Ranchito Tortilla Chips
- John Amerman
- King Soopers
  - Gift Card
- Russ Dispense
- Madhava Honey
  - Honey Bears
- Craig Gerbore
- Rocky Mountain Foods
  - Trail Mix and Candy
- Dave Greenhouse
- Voortman Cookies
- Cookies
- Jeremy Lairimore
Crew Volunteers improve the Trail . . .

everyone has fun!

printed on recycled paper

www.coloradotrail.org
Through-Hikers Help Keep the Trail by Ben Qualls and Allison Westfall

Three years ago we embarked on a life-changing experience. We through-hiked The Colorado Trail. We took our time winding our way up and over, then down and always back up again with the overwhelming desire to see the next magnificent view. Throughout the journey we saw just how well designed and maintained the Trail was. The Trail will not slow you down (except on the uphill) and it would be difficult to lose your way, which left us with time to just keep walking and soaking up the beauty.

On the great day when we finally hiked the very last mile we came away forever changed and we agreed to give back to this Trail that we both loved so much. This summer we finally worked our first week-long Trail crew in a wonderful alpine meadow at an elevation of about 13,000 feet above Minnie and Maggie Gulch. Our experience was great.

Merle McDonald Exemplifies the Dedication of CT Volunteers

Merle McDonald is one of the hundreds of volunteers who willingly give of their time and effort to maintain the quality and condition of The Colorado Trail. Truly one of the great “Friends” of the Trail, he has built on all that Gudy Gaskill and others started more than 30 years ago. According to Merle, he has, “done about every task there is in the CTF.”

Merle comes from a military background serving in Washington, D.C. where he first gained volunteer trail work experience with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. It was through family connections in Colorado Springs in 1987 that a newspaper article calling for Colorado Trail volunteers caught his eye. He subsequently moved to Colorado and joined a CT Trail crew. He enjoyed it so much—meeting good people, making new friends, working on the Trail, and experiencing the Colorado mountains—he was hooked.

Merle liked being a caretaker of the Trail and adopted a segment the first year of the Adopt-A-Trail program (he thinks it was in 1988) and then coordinated the AAT program. Being an adopter, he says, gave him a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment and his involvement in the Foundation grew. Merle was a long-time member of the Board of Directors and for three years served as the Foundation’s president. He has hiked the Trail from end to end and been a crew leader for more than 15 years.

Merle was instrumental in setting up the first Colorado Trail Foundation office, including development of the CTF accounting system and databases, and continues to supervise the computer equipment. Most recently, Merle managed production and co-authored the new edition of The Colorado Trail, The Official Guidebook of the Colorado Trail Foundation.

When not involved with the CTF, Merle enjoys sailing. He has skippered crafts from 26 to 78-feet long and has sailed nearly the entire length of each U.S. coast plus trips to and from Hawaii. Merle and his wife, Uta, still reside in Colorado Springs.

Merle says that being involved with the Colorado Trail Foundation has been rewarding and fun. He sums up his volunteerism with the same thoughts he had some 20 years ago, “What I like the most are the people and working on the Trail.”

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. 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 attending for a number of years. Not only is it fun, but it is also an incentive to get in shape or stay in shape. There are races in speed skating, figure skating, giant and downhill slalom, X-country two and five K, biathlon, relay, skate 5K, snowshoe and lots of other variations such as hockey puck, snowball throw, etc. 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 car pooling and overnight accommodations. Don’t wait. Keep in shape! Call Gudy Gaskill at 303-526-2721 or e-mail gudyct@ecentral.com.
The CT supported trekking program kicked off on June 25 at Kenosha Pass and ended in Durango on August 11. Eighty-seven trekkers took part in hiking the Trail in the 7-weeks with an average of 12 people each week. Thirty-six of the trekkers (41%) were non-residents of Colorado. Four people trekked for more than one week.

Marina Spivak from Louisville, Kentucky, born in Ukraine, hiked five consecutive weeks and didn’t get any blisters! At the end, Marina left to hike California’s John Muir Trail solo! Dick Severson from Rio Verde, Arizona, hiked half of the CT alone and on June 2 found himself in three feet of snow on Marshall Pass. Dick seldom packs much lunch but powers himself with Jelly Beans filled with electrolytes. Nina Cowen from Chicago, returned after hiking with her daughter last year. This year she brought her sister-in-law. Nina enjoyed putting up her tent every day and the expansive views from the latrine.

Nino Gei from Germany was visiting Colorado for the first time and was intrigued with the abundant sage along the Trail. He rubbed sage on his legs to repel the mosquitoes, he said, but the rest of us stuck with bug repellent.

A Surprise on the Trail

Much to our surprise we found an ice cooler stocked with cold pop along the Trail below Cochetopa Pass between Lujan Creek and Saguache Park Road. Keith Koepsel, from Gunnison has stocked the cooler off and on since 1993 for hikers to enjoy. Ted and Martha Violet, adopters of the section where the cooler is located, were hiking with us and revealed this unknown amenity. They invited Keith to meet the trekkers as they stopped at the cooler. Thanks, Keith, for your generosity and kindness.

Who Is that Lone Man with the Pulaski?

On July 27 at about 3:00 p.m., the trekkers had reached the top of Kennebec Pass north of Durango and looked down on Slide Rock. As they descended they noticed the silhouette of a man working diligently on the Trail. Who could it be? Earlier we had reports of a mystery man maintaining the CT. As we came closer he introduced himself as Ted La May. Ted was one of the original builders of The Colorado Trail and is retired after 35 years with the U.S. Forest Service. Ted said he comes up two or three days a week to work on the Trail between Junction Creek and Kennebec Pass. “It’s great therapy for me,” he said. The trekkers were amazed at Ted’s dedication to the Trail.

Completers of the Trail in 2006

Eight hikers completed The Colorado Trail in the trekking program this summer. Mark Zammuto was first to finish the Trail in late June. Norm Montgomery, Don Gillespie and Dale Clifton all completed the end of July. Sara Nye and Dick Severson completed their Trail journey for the second time. Bill Lawrence and Bill Mathises both completed in August. It was an emotional moment for some and we were excited to celebrate with them.

Plan Ahead for 2007

Every year we are touched by the people we meet and the stories we hear from through-hikers about Magic Along The Colorado Trail. If you ever want to hear amazing stories, talk to someone who has through-hiked the CT with no support. When through hikers join us for a hot meal or a cold or hot drink, they share with us their adventures along the way. We have heard many unique, wonderful stories. If you want to experience the Magic of the Trail, plan now to get out and join the CT trekking program in 2007.
New Colorado Trail Databook Now Available

Lightweight, pocket-sized, and packed with useful information. CT users praise the Databook as being a useful resource. The Databook answers your on-the-trail questions including: Where is the next reliable water? Where am I camping tonight? How many miles do I have left? Where can I resupply? The Databook 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.

After planning their trip using the CT Guidebook, many users choose to carry the Databook with them and refer to it often. The Databook supplements the information in the Official Guidebook of the Colorado Trail Foundation and is based on the most recent Trail survey, same as the Guidebook.

Ski to the CTF Cabin

Did 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 location. The cabin sleeps seven and has five sleeping bags cached to lighten your load. Basic emergency food also is stocked in the cabinets (tea, coffee, hot cereals, pancake and biscuit mixes, etc.). A couple of dates have already been reserved, so don’t wait too long. Call Gudy Gaskill for more details: 303-526-2721.

Check Out our New Website at www.coloradotrail.org