

TREAD LINES

News for Friends of The Colorado Trail

Summer 2006

The New CT Guidebook Is Here!

The new Official Guidebook of The Colorado Trail Foundation has been delivered from the printer and is available for purchase from a number of places. About 100 were mailed out from the CTF office in mid-May to enthusiastic purchasers excited to plan their trips on the CT.

This seventh edition is a high-quality book with 256 pages of color photos, maps and text that describe the Trail in great detail from the terminus trailhead near Denver to the terminus trailhead near Durango. It is written specifically for hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders who use the Trail.

Information in the new book is based on voluminous notes recorded by CTF Board member **Jerry Brown** as he hiked the Trail from end to end last summer. Jerry also identified GPS waypoints and about a dozen of the more significant ones, with latitude/longitude, are provided for each segment. Jerry's complete list of 1,246 CT waypoints is available as an excel file at www.bearcreeksurvey.com.

The Guidebook identifies the new situation at the trailhead between Segments 10 and 11, for example, as "Timberline Lake and CT Trailhead," a mile and a half from where it was previously located and known as "Hagerman Road." Similarly, the

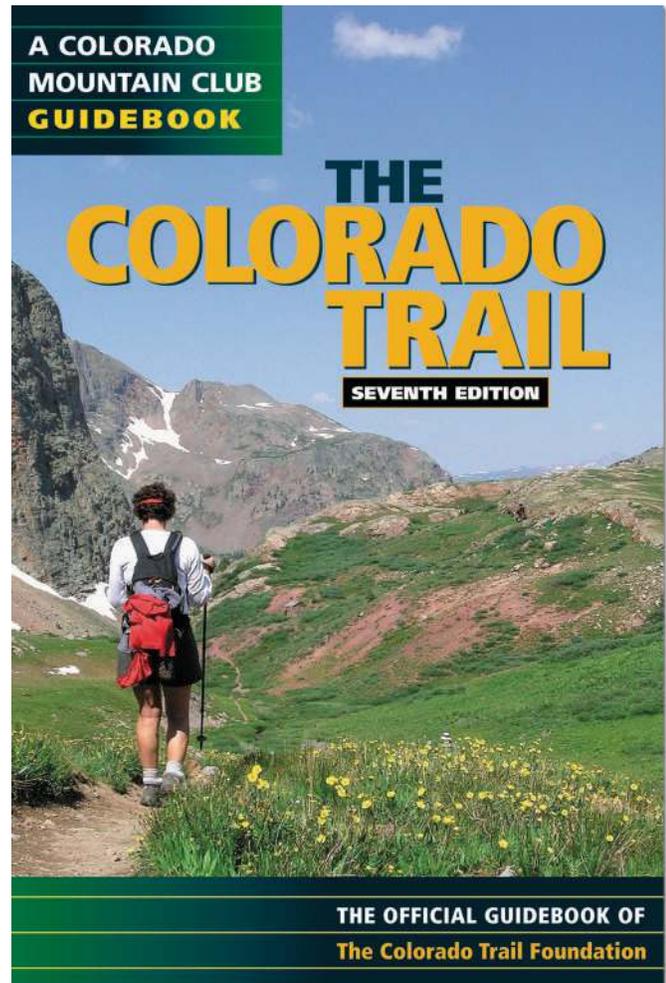
trailhead between Segments 27 and 28 is no longer called "Cumberland Basin" but is accurately identified in the Guidebook as "Kennebec Trailhead." Alternate mountain bike routes around wilderness areas are described and, for the first time, this edition includes several pages of tips for equestrians traversing the Trail.

The Colorado Mountain Club is the publisher of the seventh edition through a cooperative agreement with The Colorado Trail Foundation. CMC volunteer **Terry Root** spent many, many hours editing the new book and former CTF President **Merle McDonald**

"shepherded" the project from beginning to end and wrote trailhead descriptions plus the introduction to each segment. Altogether, a tremendous amount of effort went into this new book and it is already proving itself as the very best trip planning resource in existence.

The first official guidebook was provided by The Colorado Trail Foundation in 1988 and has been updated every couple of years. About 2,500 copies are sold each year to users of the Trail.

The new Guidebook can be obtained from the CTF office or via the CTF website, www.coloradotrail.org, where purchases benefit The Colorado Trail. Guidebooks also are available from the Colorado Mountain Club and REI, as well as from a variety of other retailers. ▲



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

The Colorado Trail® is a 500-mile-long, high-mountain educational and recreational hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail that meanders through some of the most beautiful mountain landscapes in the country. It stretches from Denver to Durango with many intermediate access points.

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

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President's Corner: CTF Board Plans for the Future



It doesn't seem possible that another summer is here—another summer of working (actually to me it is playing) along The Colorado Trail on adopter crews, Trail crews, trekking, or taking classes in the CTF cabin's beautiful high-mountain setting.

Every time I go out on the Trail I feel truly blessed to live in Colorado and have such wonderful outdoor opportunities.

In April, The Colorado Trail Foundation Board of Directors met for its annual planning retreat at Bill Manning's family home in Dillon. We're grateful to the Mannings for opening their home to us and to former CTF president **Merle McDonald** for coming to share his knowledge of the Trail and historical insights.

Greg Warren, our liaison with the U.S. Forest Service, updated us on FS developments which are always important since most of the Trail lies on Forest Service land.

Jon Greeneisen led a discussion of the Foundation's by-laws and changes needed now that we have Bill Manning as our Managing Director. The Board expects to act on changes to the bylaws at the fall meeting in October.

Ken Swierenga and **Ernie Norris** presented ideas they had researched for constructing large terminus signs at the Durango and Denver trailheads. We'll consider final designs and costs in the fall with hopes that the "end of the Trail" signs can be erected soon.

Linda Lawson provided information on establishing a "Leave a Legacy" program that would enable CT Friends to provide for The Colorado Trail in their estate plans. The Board asked Linda, **Suzanne Reed** and Jon Greeneisen to make preparations to initiate the program.

Steve Staley volunteered to work with Treasurer **Tom Gramling** in preparing a long-term financial plan for the CTF which will provide an important framework as we work on long-range plans for the Trail and the Foundation.

Managing Director **Bill Manning** updated the Board on Foundation administration. Everyone visiting the CTF office comments on how much more room we now seem to have. It's still a small room but, thanks to the hard work of Bill, **George Miller**, **Merle McDonald** and **Chuck Lawson**, the space has been reorganized to provide three

comfortable workstations. Bill also shared ideas for increasing volunteerism on the Trail, fund raising and ways to streamline office functions. With the follow-through and continuity now provided by the Managing Director, we expect many of these ideas to be implemented with real benefit for the Foundation. ▲

—Marilyn Eisele, President



CTF Fall 2006 Potluck Picnic

When: Saturday, Sept. 9th
noon to 4 pm

Where: Leadville Hostel & Inn
500 E. 7th Street
Leadville, CO
719-486-9334
www.leadvillehostel.com

What: Bring a dish to share

Who: Friends of The Colorado Trail

For those who would like to stay overnight, there are many camping possibilities in the area or make reservations at the Leadville Hostel! Leadville is approximately 2 hours from Denver and is a beautiful drive.

Meet old CT friends and make new ones!

**Mark your calendars and join us.
We look forward to seeing you.**

Volunteer Crews Tackle a Long List of Trail Improvements

With 17 week-long crews and 5 weekend crews, CTF operations chief **George Miller** has scheduled an ambitious list of Trail improvements for the summer of 2006. Crews are organized in a variety of ways with drive-in crews, jeep-in crews, pack crews and, this year, a “flex crew.”

The flex crew is George’s idea to accommodate folks who would like to volunteer to work on the Trail but can’t fit their schedule to a regular weekend or week-long crew. **Stan Ward** and **John Lipe** will lead the flex crew for 9 days, June 10–18, east of Buffalo Creek with an invitation for volunteers to come whenever they can in that time period and stay for as many or as few days as they can. George and Stan hope, however, that volunteers will come for at least two days of work. Registration for the new crew has been strong.

George believes two pack crews led by **Chuck Lawson** and **Bill Bloomquist** should be able to wrap up improvements in the “big bog” in Lost Creek Wilderness. This has been a major project of building culverts that has gone on for several years.

The Forest Service mule team will move Chuck’s and Bill’s crews up to the camp. The Front Range Back Country Horsemen with leaders **Jim** and **Julie Chaney** will provide horses to resupply the crews and then bring the crew kit out at the end of the two weeks.

Among other projects this summer, crews led by **Phil Smith** and **Dale Zoeteway** will construct reroutes on the slope of Mt. Elbert. A group of retired smoke jumpers will build a bridge over Frenchman Creek north of Harvard Lakes.

George Miller says another project that has just come up will be rerouting the Trail and building a bridge at the west end of Clear Creek Reservoir. For many years the CT has crossed Clear Creek Ranch but the ranch was recently sold. The new owners and various government agencies are cooperating with the CTF to make a new route around the private land. No crew has been scheduled for this project so there likely will be an impromptu call for volunteers sometime during the summer.

George says these are only highlights of all the work that CTF volunteers will undertake this year to maintain and improve The Colorado Trail. ▲



The Importance of a Trail Crew Member

Just how important is the work of a Colorado Trail crew member who volunteers a week of hard work to help improve and maintain the Trail? Crew Leader **Stan Ward** emphasizes the value of a crew member to his crews with the following combination of numbers.

Stan points out that The Colorado Trail is roughly 500 miles long. Normally the Foundation organizes about 20 crews to work on the Trail each summer. If a Trail crew rebuilds one mile of the Trail in a week, on average it will be 25 years before another crew returns.

Stan uses this illustration to emphasize that “the quality of work we do is very important.” He goes on to point out, “Twenty-five years is a long time. Will the work you are doing last that long?”

To train CT crews on construction standards of the Forest Service, Stan has helped the Foundation publish a Handbook for crew leaders with graphic illustrations of Trail construction. ▲

The Colorado Trail Foundation Mission Statement:

The mission of The Colorado Trail Foundation is to provide and to maintain, through voluntary and public involvement, and in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, a linear, non-motorized, sustainable, recreation trail between Denver and Durango, Colorado. This trail will provide multi-day, inspirational, and educational values keyed to the diverse, high mountain, natural environment.

Vision of The Colorado Trail:

- To preserve the sense of community associated with the unique, high altitude experience achieved by participation in trail activities.
- To support environmental education, to be a place for healing and self renewal, and facilitate an appreciation for the value of natural systems.
- To support multiple use, non motorized, family recreation in a wide variety of unpopulated ecosystems.
- To maintain a cooperative effort that involves volunteers and promotes a sense of public ownership.

Out on the Trail . . .

Summer is here and we're spending more time outdoors.

Hooray! Friends of The Colorado Trail are teaming up and having fun working to keep the Trail in great shape. Caring for the Trail is the number one mission of The Colorado Trail

Foundation. Thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers, our Trail Crew and Adopt-A-Trail programs are going strong and on track.

Volunteers are generously donating their time and hard work to maintain water diversions, remove fallen trees, reestablish the tread and build needed reroutes. Also essential to our mission are the many other volunteers in supporting roles: trail scouts, maintenance schedulers, brochure producers, registrars, crew leaders, program coordinators, cooks, computer data folks, communications people, the food team, and government personnel. Wow! We send a hearty thank you to each one of you.

In addition to keeping the Trail in good condition, the CTF works to provide education for both Trail users and the general public. The CTF offers Outdoor Workshops at our cabin high in the San



Juan Mountains to help participants learn about our environment and better their skills. We inform Trail users and provide information through the CTF website and our office.

The CT Foundation educates the public through publications, including The Official Guidebook of The Colorado Trail Foundation, Trailside Databook and *Tread Lines*. The CT offers supported treks that most participants consider an educational experience of a lifetime. We provide library displays, distribute brochures, and make visual presentations, all with the goal of educating. Again, it is volunteers who pitch in to conduct these educational programs.

Yet none of these efforts would be possible without the voluntary donations from generous Friends who provide financial support. The reality is that for the Foundation to keep maintaining the Trail, even with all the volunteer effort, it takes money. We thank all of you who dig down and send what you can. Your contributions are essential to the ongoing health of The Colorado Trail.

If you have visited the CTF office in Golden lately, you've probably had the opportunity to meet our new Volunteer Coordinator **Laura Becker**. Laura has been working part-time since December and arrived already familiar with non-profits. She grew up in Colorado Springs and lives in Denver. She's become familiar with many of the CTF office tasks and already has assisted a great number of Trail users who have made inquiries. Laura will join her first trail crew this summer and she's really excited to be involved.

Also helping at the office is **Marian Phillips** who is in her 6th year with the organization. Marian has been coming in about once a week and brings tremendous value with her long-term involvement. She dedicates much of her time to bookkeeping functions and assists in many other ways as well. When she is not at the CTF, Marian spends time with her family and their business ventures.

We invite all of you Friends of The Colorado Trail to join us for our fun Fall Picnic in September in Leadville to celebrate our summer accomplishments. Also, we encourage you to reach out to other outdoor enthusiasts and encourage them to become Friends of The Colorado Trail. Help us recruit new volunteers and supporters so that we can sustain The Colorado Trail for many years to come. Thanks . . . and, WooHoo! ▲

—Bill Manning CTF Managing Director



Laura Becker – new Colorado Trail Foundation volunteer coordinator

Adopters Assure the Trail is Open and in Good Shape

Adopters are true Friends of The Colorado Trail!! Families, friends, cyclists, horseback riders, Scouts, and many individuals working alone make possible back-country enjoyment for countless users of the Trail.

Adopters work behind the scenes to keep Mother Nature's effects on the Trail in check. They trim foliage and cut trees blocking the way. Their attention to drainage and potential erosion by reestablishing water diversions keeps the tread in shape. Adequate signage is important to all users and Adopters make sure the Trail has clear directions. Their work complements the work of Trail crews which is focused on major Trail repair and enhancement. Adopters do all of this as volunteers, on their own time, sometimes coordinating large groups and supervising many hours of work.

Adopters also serve as our "eyes and ears" on the Trail. They are out checking on their sections of the Trail early in the season and their reports on Trail conditions are often posted on the CTF website.

Communication is essential when trying to keep almost 500 miles of Trail in premier shape. Adopters are asked to communicate their observations on Trail conditions in writing using a standard form. Adopters have a brand new handbook this year, outlining Adopt-A-Trail program guidelines.

Because the Foundation maintains the Trail in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, we forward Adopter reports to our FS partners. In 2005 about 60 percent of the Adopters submitted Trail condition reports. We hope to increase Adopter reporting this year to reflect the Adopters' tremendous enthusiasm and dedication to the Trail. ▲

—Janet Farrar, Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator



Orientation Session Held for Adopters and Trail Crews

The CTF conducted an Orientation Meeting for Adopters and Trail Crew Members in late March. Stan Ward, who helped plan and arrange the training session, reports it was a productive and fun effort attended by a bigger than expected group of 42 people.

Informative presentations were given by the following CTF leaders:

George Miller, Director of Operations, reported on all the preparations to maintain The Colorado Trail this summer. George also introduced the Area Coordinators—**Bill Bloomquist**, **Chuck Lawson**, **Merle McDonald**, **Roger Gomas**, **Ted La May** and **Stan Ward**—and explained their key role in field operations.

Janet Farrar, Coordinator of the Adopt-A-Trail Program, described responsibilities of Adopters and their importance in maintaining the Trail.

Bill Manning, Managing Director, told about back-office operations, the need to recruit younger volunteers for office and field operations, the CTF educational program, and the Foundation's goal to expand outreach and funding.

The presentations were followed by breakout sessions for Adopters, Trail Crews and crew cooks where productive discussions ensued. **Liz Truitt** provided another "scrumptious" lunch after which reports were given from the breakout sessions.

Stan says everyone agreed they learned a lot and enjoyed meeting other interesting Friends of The Colorado Trail. He urges folks involved as Adopters or Crew Members to be sure to attend the next Orientation Meeting planned for next spring. ▲



New Friends of The Colorado Trail enjoy being involved.

Fantastic Views: CTF Crews Begin Building the Pole Creek Reroute

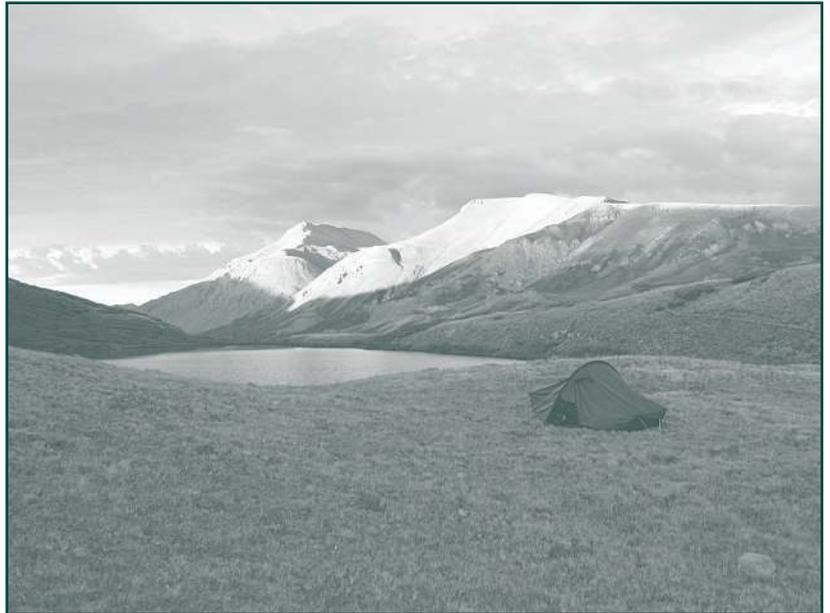
A major reroute project that will enable the CT to bypass motorized portions of Pole Creek and avoid the jeep trail to Beartown is scheduled to get underway this summer. The new route will keep the Trail above timberline at an elevation of about 12,000 feet, eliminate significant elevation loss/gain and move the CT away from 13 miles of motorized road. The new route most definitely is the high road. Hikers will stay above timberline for nearly 40 miles after leaving the forest near Spring Creek Pass.

The new route leaves the Pole Creek trail just past Cataract Lake and follows the Continental Divide to a point near the top of Stony Pass. Past Stony, it enters the Weminuche Wilderness and then continues along the divide to rejoin the existing trail above Elk Creek.

George Miller estimates that when the project is completed (probably next year) it will provide nearly 25 miles of new Trail. **Merle McDonald** calls it “one of the larger reroutes in quite a while.”

George will lead two crews of young people in cooperation with Landmark Volunteers working south of the Stony Pass Road. Merle and **Jerry Brown** will each lead week-long backpack crews establishing the new trail for about 13 miles north of Stony Pass. Much of the new route will utilize existing trails and some of the new Trail will be identified only with cairns to minimize user impact.

A possible glitch with the plan for this summer might stem from the Forest Service’s exhaustive decision-making process. When this issue of *Tread Lines* was headed to the printer the FS environmental assessment was not yet complete but expected by June 15. Let’s hope it sails through so the CTF can continue to improve the Trail and our volunteers can begin the work. ▲



Spectacular landscape will enchant future CT adventurers. Photo by Jerry Brown.



www.coloradotrail.org

Check Out our New Website!

The Colorado Trail Foundation website is brand new, all 33 pages. The appearance, navigation, links, and information have all been updated. You will find all of the following and more:

- ✓ VOLUNTEERING — how you can get involved
- ✓ TRAIL CREWS & ADOPTIONS — ways you can help
- ✓ CONTRIBUTE — new online capability
- ✓ COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION — our mission and history
- ✓ CT TRIPS — resources that help you plan
- ✓ TREKS — fully supported week-long hikes
- ✓ OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS — learn and get credit

How a CT Friend Became Involved

I first became aware of The Colorado Trail when I saw a classified ad in *Outside Magazine* in 1987 requesting volunteer trail crew participants. I was teaching in Albuquerque at the time, loved Durango, saw a listing for a crew there and signed up. We worked on switchbacks out of Junction Creek and it was the beginning of meeting great people while living and working outdoors.

The following summer (1988) the CTF advertised a 5-week supported hike from Kenosha Pass to Durango available to anyone who had previously worked a trail crew. Still teaching and having summers off, I signed up immediately. Eight of us hiked five weeks, with **Gudy Gaskill** and three of the ladies, **Dona Hildebrand, Jan Robertson, and Virginia Knowlton**, are some of my truest friends to this day. We rendezvous many times to cherish those times on the Trail in 1988. **Jim Miller** was part of the support team and he started the adopter group I have been a part of since 1991. We maintain nine miles of Trail from Kokomo Pass to Highway 24.

I'm still an Adopter and coordinate the Completion Certificate Program. I have previously been a CTF Board member, committee member, brochure distributor, thank you note sender, event planner, binder creator, trail crew leader and crew member to name a few tasks with the CTF.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a unique organization which through volunteerism, continues to carry on the legacy of Gudy Gaskill, the mother of the Trail. Anyone who has worked on the Trail will agree that once you have built tread, the Trail becomes a part of you and you a part of the Trail. I'm no exception. ▲

—Julie Mesdag



Julie Mesdag has a big smile when she's working with the CT.

New Trailhead Outreach Program

What: The CTF is introducing a new Trailhead Outreach program beginning this June! Volunteers stationed at various trailheads along The Colorado Trail will be talking with trail users. A drawing for a new CT Guidebook will facilitate the visits. The program is designed to develop awareness about The Colorado Trail Foundation and help us make new Friends, both volunteers and contributors.

Who: Anyone who likes people and is interested in helping The Colorado Trail Foundation is encouraged to participate! We provide the necessary materials.

When: Trailhead Outreach will run mainly on Saturdays & Sundays from June 3 through August 27. We have openings for volunteers at the following trailheads each weekend.

Where:

Kenosha Pass Trailhead	1 hr. west of Denver on Hwy. 285
Buffalo Creek Trailhead	Bailey
Gold Hill Trailhead	Breckenridge
Durango Trailhead	Durango
Molas Pass Trailhead	Silverton
Waterton Canyon Trailhead	Denver

How to get started: Please contact the CT office at ctf@coloradotrail.org or 303-384-3729. ▲



Trailhead outreach at Waterton Canyon—Bill Manning enjoys visiting with Trail users as they enter the drawing for a free Guidebook.

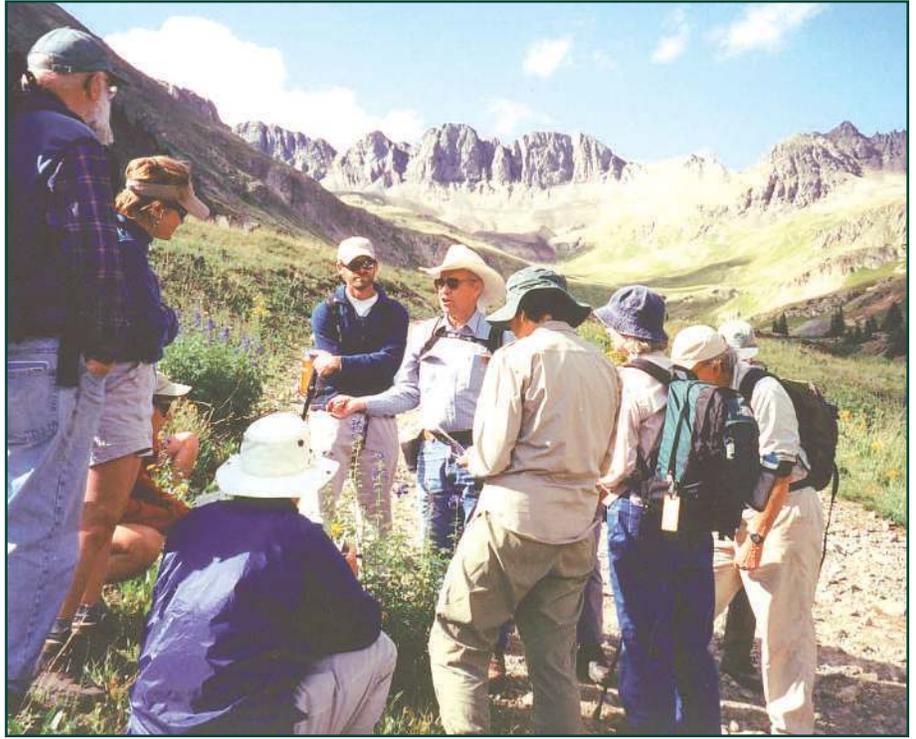
2006 Outdoor Classroom Series

Enjoy a wonderful week in the mountains this summer. The Colorado Trail Foundation educational program has been enjoyed by many participants from around the country. The Kids' Natural World class is so popular, a second class was added in 2006! Classes are small and continuing education credits are available.

Nature Photography	June 11 – 17
Kids' Natural World	June 18 – 24
Plein-Air Watercolor	June 25 – July 1
Kid's Natural World – July	July 2 – 8
Oil & Watercolor Painting	July 16 – 22
San Juan Wildflowers	July 23 – 29
The Art of Storytelling	July 30 – Aug. 5
Geology of the San Juans	August 6 – 12
Hike & Climb with the Best!	August 13 – 19

Additional information about the classes is available on the CTF website at: www.coloradotrail.org.

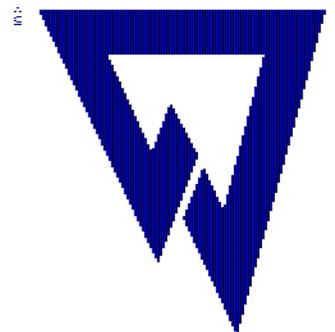
For information or to register, **ACT QUICKLY** and contact Charlotte Briber at 303-526-0809. ▲



Check Out our New Website at www.coloradotrail.org

Volunteers Make
It Happen!

The Colorado Trail



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