Join Us on a Trail Crew at Clear Creek

This summer a number of our trail crews will work in the beautiful Clear Creek Valley surrounded by magnificent scenery with many 14,000-foot peaks. We’ll be camped beside the sparkling waters of Clear Creek in a nice flat meadow. Come set up your tent and join us for a week or weekend of rewarding work on a major reroute of The Colorado Trail.

We’ll be moving the Trail off privately-owned Clear Creek Ranch and onto public lands. To do this we must build new trail down the rocky hillside on the north side of the valley and across the valley floor. We’ll install a large steel bridge to take the Trail over Clear Creek and build new trail up the south side of the valley until it joins the current Trail. In all, we need to build more than seven miles of new tread.

Seven week-long crews and two weekend crews are scheduled to complete the project. The combination of the two weekend crews and the week-long crew between them is offered as a “Flex-crew.” The Flex-crew (the nine days between June 15 and 24) enables you to join us for your choice of Flex Crew days that fit into your schedule particularly well. Even though our crew leaders have to make special accommodation for these Flex Crews, this flexible arrangement worked well last summer for certain volunteers.

Keeping our camp in the same location for all eight weeks means the camp won’t have to be set up and taken down for each crew. And it will allow us to set up a deluxe camp with nicer amenities than usual—a large kitchen/social area under canopies and a large shower tent with four shower stalls.

This campsite is in easy driving distance of two hot springs and many 14ers (Elbert, Massive, Huron, Belford, Missouri, LaPlata, Oxford, Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Antero) are close by for climbing on your day off. Clear Creek is midway between the towns of Buena Vista and Leadville, each less than 20 miles away.

Please join us for a great working vacation in the beautiful Colorado Rockies where pristine Clear Creek Valley and the mighty Arkansas Valley meet.
Greetings from the CTF office where there’s a buzz of excitement about the upcoming Trail season. People are registering for the Volunteer Trail Crews and for the educational adventures at the CTF cabin in the San Juan Mountains. And our supported treks are so popular they’re already almost full. The Foundation is poised for another successful summer thanks to all of you volunteer Friends of the Trail.

Recent accomplishments are numerous. We’ve updated the CTF Website, www.ColoradoTrail.org, and posted new program schedules, more photos, and a “contribute” feature where people can donate online. Volunteers have helped mail our year-end thank you, summer program materials, and information about our new Leave a Legacy Program. Systems refinement in accounting and database is under way and we continue to work on being more efficient. Coordinating all of these volunteer efforts here in the CTF office is challenging but very rewarding.

Trail users are making plans for their summer excursions and frequently communicate with us for help. We’re assisting them with information, guidebooks, data books and maps and other resources.

Thank you for your involvement with The Colorado Trail Foundation. Our mission, after all, is caring for 500 miles of dirt trail through rugged mountains. It’s no small task. CTF volunteers work hard to keep ahead of Mother Nature in maintaining the Trail and the Foundation strives to coordinate things so your efforts are fun, safe and productive. Your help is needed and we appreciate each and every one of you.

CTF Board Welcomes Three New Members

The CTF Board of Directors held its first 2007 meeting on January 20 in Golden and welcomed three new members—Larry Eads (Durango), Carol Cameron (Littleton) and Sam Davis (Centennial).

Carol Cameron met her husband, Wayne, when seeking backpacking partners to hike The Colorado Trail and they were later married in 2004. She is a CPA and has extensive experience with non-profits having served as chief finance officer of the Colorado Society of CPAs since 1992. Carol says, “Wilderness is my passion.”

Sam Davis, a retired banker, completed The Colorado Trail in 2004 and since then has volunteered on a number of Trail Crews. He also was the adopter for Section 22.1 (Spring Creek Pass to Big Buck Creek).

Larry Eads retired from a career in the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., where he was a volunteer with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. He works part-time as a planning facilitator and teaches the “Tread Lightly” philosophy to users of our public lands. More recently, Larry has been involved with CT Trail Crews and maintenance projects.

The Board organized for 2007 under revised bylaws that establish the offices of chairman and vice-chairman, thus replacing the offices of president and vice-president that the Foundation operated with for many years. CTF officers elected for 2007 include Jon Greeneisen, Chairman; Marilyn Eisele and Steve Staley, co-Vice-Chairmen; Carol Cameron, Treasurer; and Pat Nagorka, Secretary. Carolyn Burtard and George Miller were named to serve on the Executive Committee along with the officers.

The meeting agenda consisted primarily of annual reports on the Foundation’s operations in 2006 and plans for the summer ahead—Trail Crews, educational classes and supported treks. The Board also met with our liaison with the U.S. Forest Service, Greg Warren, who is helping the Foundation be an effective participant in the Government agency’s planning process to assure that we can continue to maintain The Colorado Trail as a premier, long-distance trail.
After years of dedicated service to the Trail, three members of The CTF Board of Directors retired at the end of 2006—Ernie Werren, Tom Gramling and Roger Gomas. Their stories of helping improve and keep The Colorado Trail are noteworthy.

Ernie Werren joined his first Trail crew at Taylor Park in 1990. Gudy Gaskill was the crew leader and she quickly spotted Ernie's talents. His 39 years as an engineer in the oil and gas industry prepared him well for his volunteer career with the CTF. He spent most of the 1990’s scouting and laying out the Trail as well as leading crews to build the Gunnison Spur, the Hope Pass re-route, and new tread in Summit County. He also found time to join Gudy Gaskill and George Miller in leading hikes on the original CT trek program. Ernie led Trail crews for 13 years.

Perhaps Ernie is best known for heading up the Copper Mountain re-route, a multi-year project to move the CT up from the road through Copper Resort and across the ski slopes. George Miller, chair of CTF Operations, credits Ernie with being single-handedly responsible for this critical CT improvement project. Working with Copper Mountain Resort, the USFS, Summit County and The CTF, Ernie laid out the new Trail, planned and led crews and oversaw new signage. Meeting Summit County residents who have worked on one of Ernie’s Trail crews is a common occurrence in the High Country.

The CT cabin above Lake City, home of The CTF summer workshops, also has been a project of Ernie’s. He has worked on cabin improvement crews and led cross county ski trips there. Ernie and his family are long time CTF Adopters, first taking care of a section in Lost Park and currently the section from Copper Mountain Resort up to Searle Pass.

While serving 12 years on The CTF Board of Directors, Ernie shared his business and financial talents. As an original member of the Investment Committee, Ernie helped set a high standard in investing CTF reserve funds and establishing the Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund.

When asked what he has enjoyed most about his CTF volunteer career, Ernie is quick to share stories of Trail scouting expeditions and leading treks and construction crews. We all can be inspired by Ernie’s volunteer ethic as we thank him and hope to see him on the Trail.

Tom Gramling’s arrival at the Foundation came like a breath of fresh air. As CTF Treasurer for five years, Tom offered financial skills and quickly adapted to our sometimes challenging accounting systems and varied personalities. With his youthful enthusiasm and fresh ideas, Tom was a valued member of the Executive Committee as well as the Board. He helped us look to the future while respecting the past. At the same time, we shared with him as he progressed from single dating guy to fiancé to groom to father, all in what seemed like a few short years. We’re grateful to Tom for sharing his talents.

Roger Gomas has been a CTF Trail crew member for 19 years, beginning with Gudy in 1988. Roger was part of a group of retired military officers who found that the CT offered the chance to continue to serve, and serve he did. Many years Roger has been accompanied on crews by one or more grandsons.

As an adopter Roger tackled the remote and long section of the CT near Beartown and set an example to the entire AAT program. Roger also served on the Board of Directors, and made a valuable contribution as a member of the CTF Investment Committee.
## 2007 Volunteer Trail Crew Schedule

Join us for a fun-filled and fulfilling Volunteer Trail Crew this summer. A summary of the Crew Schedule is below. For additional details about the Crews and registration information, visit our website at: www.ColoradoTrail.org/crews.html. We hope to see you on a Crew this summer!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crew #, Crew Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Leader Name</th>
<th>Description of Work and Base Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weekend Trail Crews</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE2, Kenosha Pass</td>
<td>June 15 – 17</td>
<td>Cindy Johnson</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Cindy has announced this Crew will be for <strong>Women Only</strong>. This will be a lot of fun to work on a women's Crew for a weekend. Elevation 10,000 ft. Segment 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE3, Clear Creek</td>
<td>June 15 – 17</td>
<td>Art Rankin</td>
<td><strong>FLEX CREW (Drive In):</strong> Part of the Flex Crew described in Crew 0307 below. Elevation 9,000 ft. Segments 11 and 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE4, Clear Creek</td>
<td>June 22 – 24</td>
<td>Bill Manning</td>
<td><strong>FLEX CREW (Drive In):</strong> Part of the Flex Crew described in Crew 0307 below. Elevation 9,000 ft. Segments 11 and 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE5, Mt. Massive</td>
<td>June 29 – July 1</td>
<td>Paul Smith</td>
<td><strong>Backpack In:</strong> This is a short backpack project to reroute the CT. We will work two separate weekends to complete the project. Sign up for either/both. Elevation 11,200 ft. Segment 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE6, Mt. Massive</td>
<td>July 6 – July 8</td>
<td>Paul Smith</td>
<td><strong>Backpack In:</strong> Same description as Crew WE5 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week-long Trail Crews</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0107, Clear Creek</td>
<td>June 9 – 16</td>
<td>Jon Greeneisen</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Work will consist of 7 Crews (see dates below and above) working to reroute the CT off the Clear Creek Ranch. Camp will be very comfortable and not require setting up and taking down each week. It is on private land and behind a gate. Elevation 9,000 ft. Segments 11 and 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0207, Mt. Elbert</td>
<td>June 16 – 23</td>
<td>Bill Bloomquist</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Construct about a mile of reroute north of the Twin Lakes area along the base of Mt. Elbert, Colorado’s highest 14er. Good fishing and hiking nearby. Elevation 10,500 ft. Segment 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0307, Clear Creek</td>
<td>June 16 – 23</td>
<td>John Lipe</td>
<td><strong>FLEX CREW (Drive In):</strong> Flex Crew enables you attend on days that suit your schedule. It includes this week-long crew and weekend Crews WE3 and WE4. Volunteers can attend any combination of days between June 15 – 24. Work will be as described under Crew 0107 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0407, Clear Creek</td>
<td>June 30 – July 7</td>
<td>Stan Ward</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Same description as Crew 0107 above. This Crew will prepare for and set the new bridge as well as building trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0507, Clear Creek</td>
<td>July 7 – 14</td>
<td>George Miller</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Same information as Crew 0107 above. This Crew will consist of Landmark Volunteers from around the country as well as our own volunteers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0607, Cascade Creek</td>
<td>July 7 – 14</td>
<td>Chuck Lawson</td>
<td><strong>Jeep In:</strong> Walk to work from a camp at the end of the Divide Road out of Purgatory basin. Work will consist of moving water off of the Trail on a very wet hillside. The views from this site are spectacular. Elevation 10,850 ft. Segment 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0707, Clear Creek</td>
<td>July 14 – 21</td>
<td>George Miller</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Same description as Crew 0507 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0807, Cataract Ridge</td>
<td>July 14 – 21</td>
<td>Merle McDonald</td>
<td><strong>Jeep In:</strong> Camp at the end of the Maggie Gulch Road and build a new section of Trail along the Continental Divide well above treeline. Elevation 12,600 ft. Segment 24.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0907, Clear Creek</td>
<td>July 21 – 28</td>
<td>Glenn Kepler</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Same description as Crew 0107 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1007, Wall’s Gulch Bridge</td>
<td>July 21 – 28</td>
<td>Ernie Norris</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> About a 3 mile walk to the bridge from camp. Work for this Crew is to dismantle and rebuild the bridge which washed out at Wall’s Gulch. Elevation 9,000 ft. Segment 28.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1107, Clear Creek</td>
<td>July 28 – Aug. 4</td>
<td>Stan Ward</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Same description as Crew 0107 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1207, Mt. Elbert</td>
<td>August 18 – 25</td>
<td>Phil Smith</td>
<td><strong>Drive In:</strong> Same description as Crew 0207 above. This Crew will be filled with DC Oaks students and other volunteers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1307, Cataract Ridge</td>
<td>August 20 – 24</td>
<td>Jerry Brown</td>
<td><strong>Backpack In:</strong> This Crew will hike each day along the new Cataract Ridge Trail to ensure the Trail is ready to be opened. A great project for the physically fit. Elevation 12,600 ft. Segment 24.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education Adventures in the San Juan Mountains

Ten Weeks of Outdoor Learning with Instructors and Gudy—offered by The Colorado Trail Foundation in an incredible outdoor setting near Lake City, Colorado.

Service Work Crew 6/10–6/16
Help ready the Education Facility, above 10,000 feet, no cost. Contact Gudy at (303) 526-2721.

New! Music in the Mountains 6/17–6/23
Create a whistle or flute, receive instruction, practice—songs and hiking too.

Kids’ Natural World 1 6/24–6/30
Ages 6–11 with parent or grandparent: hike, fish, craft, wildlife, and exploring.

Kids’ Natural World 2 7/1–7/7
Similar to Kids’ 1 but with different activities, songs and campfires; you could join us for both.

Colorado Mountain Club Hiking 7/8–7/14
Hike the peaks including nearby 14ers. Contact Janet at wildjc@juno.com.

Oil & Watercolor Painting 7/15–7/21
Superb instruction, lots of painting, critique and breathtaking scenery.

Learn your Wildflowers 7/22–7/28
Timed for highest wildflower season, multiple ecozones—bring lots of film.

Plein Air Watercolor 7/29–8/4
Learn how to capture colors in our high altitude with washes, sketches and shadows.

Geology of the San Juans 8/5–8/11
Rock hound adventures, field trips, glaciation, volcanism, geologic reality.

Hike & Climb with the Best! 8/12–8/18
Fantastic peaks, expert leaders, safety, planning, pacing—come fit.

Most classes are $395 per week ($355 + $40 public land use fee.) Special price on Kids’ class is $295 ($255 + $40 public land use fee) per adult and $135 ($95 + $40 public land use fee) per child. All meals, instruction, and craft materials are included.

For additional information about the classes and how to register, visit our website at www.ColoradoTrail.org/workshops.html.

CTF Supported Trekking – Sign up for 2007

Hikers carry only a light daypack with lunch, water and raingear.

- Crew members transport your gear, all equipment and supplies from campsite to campsite.
- Five days and five nights of hiking on The Colorado Trail.
- All meals, guides and logistical support provided.
- Five uniquely different hiking weeks between Camp Hale and Durango beginning July 1, 2007.
- $875 per person per hiking section.
- Sign up for one week or more.
- Space is limited to 12 to 13 hikers per week.

For details and the schedule, visit www.ColoradoTrailHiking.com.
Friends of the Trail—individuals, families and groups—who have “adopted” sections of the Trail will again help maintain the tread this year. These adopters inspect the Trail to see that it is open in the spring, clean out drains and water bars, check the signage, cut back encroaching vegetation and report to the Foundation on the Trail's condition. In 2006, some 325 adopters logged more than 3,600 hours of volunteer trail work and did a great job of reporting!

Sections 10.1 (Lake Fork to Halfmoon Creek), 12.1 (Clear Creek to Waverly Ridge) and 24.3 (Animas River to Molas Pass) have new Adopters. John Wehrle and his family looked after Section 10.1 for 18 years and now Dale Zoetewey and his family will take over. Bill Weber, now 80 years old, decided to pass Section 12.1 on to new adopter Jason Guenzel.

Ken Marshall was the keeper of Section 24.3 for 8 years and has recruited Jennifer Rector of Durango to be the new keeper.

Sections 20.1 (Eddiesville to San Luis Pass) and 24.1 (Stony Pass Road to the Continental Divide) are currently “unadopted” and I will be contacting people about filling these openings. The western part of Section 23 and the eastern part of Section 24 (Pole Creek and Beartown) will be rerouted this summer and change the adopter sections. David Barnett will stay on as adopter of part of Section 23 but adopters will be needed for the new trail on Cataract Ridge.

In September, Julie Mesdag and her group of former FBI and NASA personnel and friends were awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Holy Cross/White River National Forest for their work on Section 8.4 (Kokomo Pass to Highway 24). Julie has led her group on the Trail since 1991 and is considered by the group as one of the “Solid Rocks” of the Trail.

Mark and Joellen Fonken were improving drainage and sculpting ramps on the challenging switchbacks of Section 22.2 (Big Buck Creek to Wager Gulch) when, as they put their tools down to end the day before the rain, 12 horseback riders started down the switchbacks. They held their breath but breathed a sigh of relief when they saw that their hard work held up to 48 hooves!

Back in 1994 when Stew Brown first adopted Section 19.1 (Saguache Park Road to Eddiesville), it took him two trips just to find the trailhead! When he finally found it, he had to drive his Trailblazer around a gate and up the creek. Now there are big boulders next to the gate so he has to wait for someone to open it in order to get to his section.

John Lipe and Eileen Broer consider their time working on the Trail a “vacation.” So take a vacation from the rest of the world and spend it helping maintain The Colorado Trail!
Thanks to Marian Phillips!

It is difficult to acknowledge the many contributions Marian Phillips made to the CTF as she gave so much of herself in her six years as Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager, the first five she shared with me. Marian’s family always came first but we were fortunate that for those years the CTF was a close second.

In Marian’s letter of resignation she commented, “Someone asked yesterday, ‘How did the two of you do all that you did and both of you being part-time?’ What a compliment! I do believe that our little office provides something of an incubator (it is the right size!) to those who work within its walls. There is no place to which one can escape, so you make the best of it and grow together.”

I agree with Marian’s assessment but would add that the talents she brought to the CTF and shared so willingly were powerful in guiding the CTF to the strong position we have today. Whether balancing our accounts, revising our contracts or communicating with our vast and varied group of volunteers, Marian always gave 100 percent.

Her eye for detail and high standards set an example to all who worked with her.

We shared laughter and sometimes frustration but, most importantly, we shared our awe of the dedication given to the CTF by our volunteers, starting right at the top with Gudy Gaskill and on down to the newest Trail Crew Volunteer and envelope stuffer.

Thanks, Marian. We miss you.

Trail’s End

Theresa Klein was an avid hiker, skier and snowshoer who died in January 2007 at the age of 86. Theresa completed The Colorado Trail in the mid 1990’s, beginning her segment hiking as the CT was taking shape in the mid 1980’s. She was an enthusiastic participant in the High Country Hikers, a women’s outdoor group in Colorado Springs, climbed almost all of Colorado’s 14ers and was very close to several Friends of the CT.

Wolfram Kube passed away in January 2007 at the age of 72. Wolfram was an early contributor to the CT, donating money when The Colorado Trail was first started because he considered it a very worthwhile cause. He was an avid hiker, enjoyed his excursions on the Trail, and valued meeting Gudy and Dave Gaskill through common friends.

Jed McCaslin passed away in October 2006 at the age of 27. In August of the same year he completed a mostly solo, thru hike of The Colorado Trail, a long held goal, joined for brief periods by his father and sister. He loved the Trail and took over 6,000 pictures along the way.

Phil Stevenson, an avid climber, runner and cyclist passed away in July, 2006 at the age of 64 while riding “The Triple Bypass” — a 120 mile bicycle race. Phil is remembered for his love of the mountains and his devotion to The Colorado Trail as an active Friend and leader of one of the first adopter groups. Phil and his fellow adopters took on the task in 1987 when the CT first opened and the group has maintained part of the Trail ever since.

Family and friends of each of these Friends of the Trail made it known that memorial donations could be made to The Colorado Trail Foundation.
Bicyclists Work to Improve the CT

CTF Trail-keeping in 2006 benefited greatly from the efforts of mountain bikers. In addition to cyclist adopters and cyclists volunteering on Trail crews, a huge cyclist-driven Trail work effort happened in September at Buffalo Creek. The cyclists called it “Epic 3.” Why huge? Because lots of cyclists were working together on Trail improvements:

- 127 mountain bikers
- 5 cycling groups
- 15 trained leaders
- 7 of us from The Colorado Trail Foundation
- 1 Forest Service representative

This third annual weekend gathering was big fun and the work on Saturday was super productive. In just one weekend this mega-crew constructed three reroutes, rehabbed old routes, conserved the area by controlling erosion and sustained a mile of The Colorado Trail.

Scott Dollus of the USFS said, “This group always amazes me with the quantity and quality of the work we accomplish in one day while having a great time doing it.” We in the CTF helped coordinate, provided food, offered technical leadership and were grateful for the cyclists’ tremendous assistance. Keith Clark of the Front Range Mountain Bike Patrol summed up the success by saying, “I am already looking forward to Epic 4.”