How Well Do You Know The Colorado Trail?

Test your knowledge of The Colorado Trail by matching the letters on the map above with the correct location listed below:

___Mt. Elbert, Colorado’s highest mountain at 14,433’
___Colorado Trail Foundation Office (Golden)
___Mt. Princeton Hot Springs
___2007 Clear Creek Reroute
___San Luis Peak, 14,014’
___Indian Trail Ridge
___2007 Cataract Ridge Reroute
___Holy Cross Wilderness
___Waterton Canyon
___Weminuche Wilderness
___Camp Hale
___Marshall Pass
___Kenosha Pass
___Lake City
___Baldy Lake

Answers can be found at the bottom of page 4.
Managing Director’s Corner . . . Looking Forward

by Bill Manning

Being focused on the Trail, The Colorado Trail Foundation is always looking ahead to see what’s on the horizon. While we can’t predict all future circumstances, here’s some of what we see.

Our volunteer-based organization has been praised for accomplishing almost all of the construction and maintenance on the entire Trail, nearly 500 miles long. The size of this task begins to sink in when contemplating that, if our volunteer work crews are able to improve about 20 miles each summer, it will take us 25 years to visit each mile of tread only once. Wow! Our mission is huge. Looking forward, the CTF will continue to be focused on our mission of preserving The Colorado Trail, organizing our volunteers and encouraging our supporters. On our horizon, as in the past, is the central task of caretaking the Trail.

Our adopters in the Adopt-A-Trail program will have a key role in coming months and years as we make Trail improvements. Our goal is to enhance the communication even more, keeping adopters energized for their tasks of clearing the corridor, limiting tread erosion, and reporting Trail conditions. Our CT Adopters are our front line in keeping the Trail.

Another goal on our Trail horizon that we’ve had for more than 30 years (the original concept of the Trail) is to make it 100% non-motorized end-to-end. This is a challenging goal laden with Federal policies, environmental considerations, and user desires. Still, recent CTF progress has trimmed the CT sections where motors are allowed leaving about 90 miles of the Trail still motorized this summer. We’ll continue working with the agencies and other partners on this with some hopeful signs of additional solutions, possibly involving reroutes. Can you imagine the challenge of accomplishing Trail reroutes dozens of miles long? It will require serious involvement from our CTF Friends, both volunteers and supporters. We’ll keep working on it. We’ll need your help. Thanks.

Support from the U.S. Forest Service

With The Colorado Trail almost entirely on Federal lands and most administered by the U.S. Forest Service, it’s natural that the CTF and USFS should work together. We’ve been partners for more than 30 years. CTF volunteers care for the Trail while the Federal land managers provide guidance, support and, at times, modest cost sharing.

Greg Warren, USFS Regional Coordinator for The Colorado Trail, Rocky Mountain Region, came last month with kudos for our partnership saying the CTF is a successful model for volunteer trail-keeping. Greg also brought news that the USFS is willing to increase the cost-sharing arrangement and help cover the expense of printing Tread Lines. We said, “Cool.” The CTF welcomes this help and we appreciate our partnership with the Forest Service.

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Corporate Friends Support the Trail

The CTF has been fortunate to receive significant support from Colorado businesses. Corporate generosity has helped us feed crews, install bridges, build reroutes, purchase tools, educate, maintain an efficient office, and provide information to users of the Trail.

One of the recent corporate partnerships that proved a “win/win” was a sales promotion for Bonterra Wines. The distributor, Republic National Distributing Company, came to the CTF with their idea: they would celebrate Earth Day by donating to The Colorado Trail Foundation $1.00 per bottle of Bonterra Wines sold throughout Colorado in the month of April. The distributor developed posters and other sales materials highlighting the fundraiser, the CT and Foundation. The distributor held sales meetings and wine tastings. It was a success for both Bonterra and the Foundation. Sales of the wine quadrupled and the CTF was presented with a big check for $15,000.

Here’s a list of CTF corporate and organizational “Friends.”

- Roundup Riders of the Rockies Heritage and Trails Foundation—considerable and ongoing financial support that has helped us improve and preserve the CT
- CoBank—generous cash donations in the past two years have been integral to smooth operations and Foundation health
- Clear Creek Ranch—property solution and financial contribution toward completion of the Clear Creek Bridge and reroute
- REI—a grant helped equip adopters with pocket chainsaws for Trail maintenance
- International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)—helped buy Trail tools
- Terry’s Crane & Rigging—discounted the crane to install Clear Creek Bridge
- Front Range Back Country Horsemen—horse riders contribute annually
- Bear Creek Survey Service—Trail data collecting and processing for the CTF Guidebook and Databook
- AlphaGraphics of Golden—discounts on printing
- Republic National Distributing and Brown-Forman—significant cash donation from the Bonterra Wines sales promotion

The support of these businesses and organizations is important in maintaining The Colorado Trail. When donations are made to The Colorado Trail Foundation, 88% is used for Trail maintenance and improvement with only 12% needed for administration. If you would like to join in the financial support for the Trail, please fill out the enclosed envelope and send your donation to the CTF office.

CTF Board Volunteers Are Anything But Bored

Volunteers not only maintain The Colorado Trail, but also keep the CT Foundation ticking. Some of our most active volunteers are the members of the CTF Board of Directors. They constitute a “working board” that provides vital, active support to the two CTF staff members. In addition to attendance at three meetings each year, the members serve on such CTF committees as finance, administration and operations.

Through the years the CTF has been fortunate to be guided by volunteer Board members with great dedication and vision. Past members include such leaders as Gov. Richard Lamm, USFS State Trails Director Stuart McDonald, CT Co-Founder Merrill Hastings, and BLM State Director Bob Moore.

The Board recently held its annual spring planning retreat at which, among other topics, it considered how to improve coordination with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA). Teresa Martinez, CDTA Operations Director, met with the Board to discuss how to improve collaboration on the 200 miles of trail that the CT and CDT share.

Volunteers who joined the CTF Board at the beginning of the year include Pete Turner, former manager of CTF treks from Durango, and Dewey Hill, a Douglas County trail projects leader from Castle Rock. CTF Past President Marilyn Eisele retired from the Board at the end of 2007 having served the Foundation many years in leadership positions. See page 2 sidebar for current list of CTF Board members.
Can’t wait to get outside this summer? Join us in the beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountains for a week-long or weekend crew. We need your help! Although many crews are already full, six still have openings. You’ll enjoy a fun and fulfilling experience working on The Colorado Trail with some great people. Visit the CTF web site at www.ColoradoTrail.org for more information unless otherwise noted.

WE1 (one day) June 7 National Trails Day Segments 1 and 2 where the CT crosses the South Platte River at 7,000 feet elevation. A partner project with bicycle and horse groups to repair damage done by a major tree blow down. You can bike or hike. Visit the Colorado Mountain Bike Association web site at www.CoMBA.org/NTD-2008 for information and to register.

WE2 (weekend) August 9–10 (Note these dates have been changed) Segment 5 at 10,000 feet elevation. Father-son pairs camp at Kenosha Pass and drive to work in the Johnson Gulch area.

WE3 (weekend) July 26–27 Segment 26 at 11,500 feet elevation. Led by Trails 2000 of Durango, the camp will be near the CT and Hotel Draw. Volunteers will hike or bike to repair the CT near Blackhawk Pass. Information and registration: Mary@Trails2000.org or (970) 259-4682.

0108 (one week) June 14–21 Segment 4 in Lost Park at 10,000 feet elevation. Camp and work in the beautiful Lost Park Valley. Install erosion structures to control streams that cross the Trail.

0208 (one week) June 21–28 Segment 5 at 10,000 feet elevation. This women only crew will complete a reroute near Kenosha Pass and work on other Trail improvements.

0408 (one week) July 5–12 Segment 2 at 7,600 feet elevation. Camp in a stand of trees missed by the Buffalo Creek Fire. Work will be recovering tread below Top of the World campground through meadows and wildflowers.

Guiding You to New Trail

Trail users have been heard to say, “Hey, that’s the old route. The new route is over here.” Similar conversations are common at the CTF office.

As a work in progress, The Colorado Trail continues to be changed and improved and when the tread alignment is changed we need to update Trail maps and information. We must change signs along the Trail, update our web site at www.ColoradoTrail.org and rewrite the Guidebook. A revised official guide to the Trail will be here soon.

“The Colorado Trail” SEVENTH EDITION REVISED is expected to start showing up at stores during the week of July 28th. The new book will include maps and descriptions of the new reroutes on Cataract Ridge (CT Segments 23 and 24) and at Clear Creek (Segments 11 and 12). If you need this information with maps before the new Guidebook arrives, you can find it at www.ColoradoTrail.org.

The new guide will have refined waypoints and other updated data, all helpful for CT users. When it’s available sometime late summer, be sure you are getting the newest Guidebook. Make sure the words, “Seventh Edition Revised,” are on the cover.

The CTF is grateful to volunteers Merle McDonald and Jerry Brown for gathering the Trail data and updating the guide. It was a big project.

Answers to How Well Do You Know The Colorado Trail?

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| L | Lake City |
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Ernie Norris smiling as he transports a post to better the CT.
Regarded as one of the premier long distance trails in the country, it is important that we keep finding ways to preserve The Colorado Trail. All of you “Friends” of the Trail make it happen with your volunteer effort and financial support.

An example of this was the success last summer with the Clear Creek Bridge and reroute near the midpoint of the Trail. The Trail had crossed a private ranch for some 25 years. When the ranch was sold a couple years ago the new owner was gracious but requested that another alignment be found for the Trail. This was a real challenge to preserving The Colorado Trail. If a solution couldn’t be found we would have lost the continuity and connectivity of our 500-mile Trail.

Enter CT Friends, both volunteers and contributors. CTF volunteers scouted alternative routes, honed in on a feasible alignment, contacted landowners to obtain permission and set into motion all tasks to build a reroute. Donors stepped up too, beginning with the new ranch owner.

It was an exciting moment at the bridge dedication on July 6 when about 100 Friends watched the crane begin to lower the 80-foot steel bridge. “Would it fit?” and “What if it doesn’t?” were the questions whispered. There was great anticipation. Had the volunteers built the abutment perfectly and were the anchor bolts precise? The huge bridge slowly lowered and caused a scare when it didn’t quite fit. There were some nervous moments. But after skillful bolt-bending the huge bridge slid onto its foundation and the crowd cheered. Friends of the Trail had accomplished it all.

After a year of planning and a summer of volunteer work, CT Friends had succeeded in constructing a new three-mile Trail around the ranch and a solid footbridge over Clear Creek. The Trail was preserved.

Spread the Word . . . Tell Others About The Colorado Trail

We’re grateful so many of you enjoy The Colorado Trail and want to be involved. You contribute funds, volunteer on crews, adopt and maintain sections of the Trail, and help out at the Education Center and here in the CTF office in Golden. Yet many times each month we are asked, “How can I be involved?”

One thing you can help do is spread the word. Tell others about the Trail and all the volunteers who build and maintain it. Tell them about this volunteer enterprise high in the Rocky Mountains and invite them to become involved. Your word-of-mouth “awareness building” really helps.

It is a huge challenge to try to communicate with the hundreds and hundreds of Trail users each summer. Hikers, bikers and horse riders on the Trail aren’t required to sign in and only a fraction of them communicate with the CTF office. Our communications programs help, including our CTF website and our Trailhead Outreach Program, but many people who use the CT have no awareness of the Foundation and all our volunteer workers.

When you tell others along the Trail how the CT is maintained, it makes them aware of the Foundation and encourages their involvement. It is an important way to show that you are a “Friend” of the Trail. You can direct them to our website, www.ColoradoTrail.org, and suggest they deliver their contact information by phone or email to receive Tread Lines, Trail crew information, and other news about the Foundation. You’ll help expand our circle of CT “Friends.” Thank you.

Brand new Clear Creek Bridge being tested by scores of CT Friends.
My old college buddy Ed met me at Kenosha Pass to hike CT Segment 6 to Breckenridge. We headed out early on June 27. The morning was nice but afternoon rains moved in and, along with lightning, stopped us just short of Georgia Pass. We holed up and lazed around hoping for a break in the weather but it didn't clear so we set up camp for the night.

As we prepared for bed Ed asked, “Do you think we need to hang up the food?” Ed and I had back packed a lot in Yosemite during our college years and I thought we knew about bears. The snow was pretty much gone and there were lots of plants available and garbage cans at cabins lower down. I said, “Naw, any bear in his right mind isn’t going to be up here at 11,000 feet; he’ll be down low where the food is.” I threw my food sack into my pack and set it under a tree about ten feet from my tent. Ed had second thoughts because of “the little critters.” He used a low, dead limb on a fir tree about ten feet from his tent to hang his food sack about six feet off the ground. We turned in and slept through the night.

We awakened around five the next morning and heard something big walking through the trees, dry limbs cracking. It seemed to be no more than 50 yards away, judging from the sounds in the early morning quiet. I thought it was probably an elk. A few minutes later there were more sounds and then a sudden CRACK! as a branch broke and something big and clumsy ran away through the woods. Again, I thought it was just an elk that had finally picked up our scent.

Ed and I climbed out of our tents and, while I started up the stove, Ed went to get his food sack…but it was gone. The dead limb was broken and the food nowhere in sight. Having just read about thieving on the Appalachian Trail, I was guessing that someone had stolen Ed's food. So I shared my food with Ed. Ed, being a little older and brighter, wasn’t satisfied with my cynical view of the world. He started looking around.

About 30 yards from camp the story was clear. There in a neat little pile were Ed’s food wrappers. A bear had taken the stuff sack and then sat down to go through it. The nylon stuff sack was ripped open as if with a knife. Each packet or package had been opened and emptied—oatmeal, dried soup, Hamburger Helper, hot chocolate. The bear had eaten everything except for Ed’s morning coffee.

We had planned to be on the Trail for at least another night (bad knees took us to Breck a little early) but with the bear snacks gone we were going to be short. As we broke out of the woods and were heading across the tundra towards the Pass, we ran into a man in a yellow shirt who was hiking with his daughter who looked to be about 14. He was a guide from Patagonia and they had been hiking for awhile because they talked about the Collegiates.

We told them our story and asked if they had any food they could spare. They were so nice and began pulling food out of their packs for us. They couldn’t give us enough. We had to keep saying no to their further offers. We got a big chunk of cheese, a bit of chocolate, and a couple fresh bagels. That is the kind of folk you meet on The Colorado Trail!

I’m hoping for another 100–150 miles this summer—sans bears.

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**CT Events Coming This Year**

**Outdoor Workshops**

Week-long, June – August, in the spectacular San Juan Mountains. With Gudy Gaskill and top instructors at the CT Cabin near Lake City. Kids’ Natural World, Hike & Climb, Oil and Watercolor Painting, Wildflowers, Geology, Plein Air Watercolor, and Music in the Mountains. For information visit [www.ColoradoTrail.org/workshops.html](http://www.ColoradoTrail.org/workshops.html)

**Trail Crews**

Weekend and week-long, June – August (see details on page 4 and visit [www.ColoradoTrail.org](http://www.ColoradoTrail.org))

**Friends Picnic**

Saturday, September 20, Noon–3pm at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood (near C-470 and Morrison Rd). Gather with Friends of The Colorado Trail (last year there were over 100 of us)! Help us celebrate Friends volunteerism and contributions. If you’re a current Friend (volunteer or donor), you’ll receive a postcard with details that will be your park entrance pass.

**Holiday Reception**

Thursday, December 11, 3:00–7:00 pm
American Mountaineering Center, Golden (where the CTF office is located)
Stop by between 3:00 and 7:00 for refreshments, camaraderie, and news about The Colorado Trail and our Foundation. Bring a friend!
I grew up hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and backpacking with my four brothers, so the outdoors has been a big part of my life. When I moved to Colorado in 1976, one reason was to have access to this great natural playground. Working as a CPA in the Denver Tech Center, I need regular doses of trail time to keep my balance. I feel most connected spiritually when I’m in the wilderness and surrounded by the vast beauty of wild places.

So when I started reading about The Colorado Trail in the ‘80s, I dreamed of hiking it. But I was a single mom with two small boys, one with disabilities, and I didn’t have a way to make the commitment. When my boys grew up, I decided it was time to do The CT. I actively looked for a hiking partner who was also interested in The Colorado Trail so we could set up shuttles with two cars, one at each trailhead, and do short segments on weekends. I put out the word to my network of active, wilderness-loving friends.

Along came Wayne. The first time we met, we hiked The CT near Buffalo Creek to test each other out as hiking partners, and we were very compatible—we hiked at the same pace, we both preferred to take it slow and savor the experience. I liked to meditate, and he liked to nap, at some point along the trail each day. Shortly after that, Wayne sent me on a treasure hunt with clues at various places around town, leading eventually to REI where I discovered my “treasure” was a set of Colorado Trail topographic maps. He was telling me he was up for the adventure ahead, and I was thinking “I really like this guy!”

We’ve hiked The CT in sequence starting in Denver, covering about 40 miles in a few weekends each summer. The memories are priceless! The day we planned to hike over the Tenmile Range between Breckenridge and Copper Mountain, it had snowed overnight. We decided to go for it anyway, and by the time we reached the saddle, we were cold and exhausted, but exultant at the sweep and grandeur of that spectacular vista. A photo of me at the top shows me trying to smile, but my lips are frozen.

One of the great things about the CT is that you can be the only ones on the trail in the midst of glorious wilderness, like the day we passed through the Holy Cross Wilderness, a place of stunning beauty. In the Collegiate Peaks area, we decided to test-drive a pack llama for several days, and it was great! Thunder was a character, but cooperative and easy to care for. He carried most of our gear so we needed only day packs. And we really had a sense of accomplishment conquering Mount Yale, one of the toughest climbs yet. We can’t wait to get back out on the trail this year, because we hear the scenery just gets better and better.

Along the way, Wayne and I became best friends, fell in love, and married. I found my life’s companion because we both were drawn to The Colorado Trail. That’s why, when one of my outdoor friends told me they needed a Treasurer for The Colorado Trail Foundation, I decided to volunteer. As a CPA specializing in financial management of nonprofit organizations, I hope I can make a small contribution to help perpetuate the national treasure that is The Colorado Trail, and help others experience the joy and connection to nature that I have found hiking The CT.

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**Purchasing a CORSAR Search and Rescue Card Makes Good Sense**

We are big proponents and encourage all outdoor enthusiasts, including every CT crew member and adopter volunteer, to buy a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card. You can purchase a CORSAR card online, over the telephone, or from any of many Colorado retailers. The best website information is on the website for Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Just do a Google search for CORSAR and find the DOLA link near the top of the search results.

Why buy a CORSAR card? As explained on the official website, “Colorado residents and visitors are well served by dedicated volunteer search and rescue teams, but mission costs are often in the thousands of dollars. By purchasing a CORSAR card you are contributing to the Search and Rescue Fund, which will reimburse these teams for costs incurred in your search and rescue. Funds remaining at the end of the year are used to help pay for training and equipment for these teams.”

Read more on the web. At $3.00 per year or $12.00 for five years, purchasing one of these cards make good sense.