Coming Soon - The New CT Guidebook!

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Managing Director’s Update
by Bill Manning, CTF Managing Director

VOLUNTEERS and SUPPORTERS are the lifeblood of The Colorado Trail and The Colorado Trail Foundation. This long-awaited issue of Tread Lines is a perfect example. Volunteers helped write and design this newsletter and supporters helped pay for it. A sincere THANKS to all of our volunteers and supporters; the CTF needs and appreciates each and every one of you.

We’re glad to finally be delivering this newsletter, the first (and only) of 2010. The significant volunteer assistance of writer Tim Burroughs and graphic designer Valerie Miller of Dolomite Designs, plus financial support from many, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bonterra Vineyards, and all of our individual donors, are what makes this newsletter possible.

CTF communications, beyond Tread Lines, are worth mentioning. This year, we have communicated electronically with many of you via e-mail and through Facebook, including Trail updates and event invites. But in order to do that effectively and reach as many people as possible, WE NEED YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS. Please e-mail that information to us at ctf@ColoradoTrail.org.

This has been a great year for the CTF. We maintained The Colorado Trail, as we have been doing for decades. Thanks to the tireless work by CTF Operations Manager George Miller and many other volunteers, our Trail Crews made significant improvements to the Trail. Thanks to the dedication of Janet Farrar, Adopt-A-Trail Program Manager, and many others, our Adopters succeeded in clearing and performing the essential maintenance to keep the Trail ready for all users. Thanks to volunteer sign-makers Paul Newendorp and Phred Jahner, as well as reports by many Trail users and Adopters, we were able to replace many failed signs and reduce confusion. We can report that the Trail is in good condition.

Financial bright spots this year include a $10,000 grant from REI for a new equipment trailer that will support Trail Crews and operations. Support from the Roundup Riders of the Rockies, through their Heritage and Trails Foundation, helped us move forward on our effort to reroute the CT in the Fossey Creek area, where we hope to move the CT off the road at the valley bottom and reroute it on a much gentler grade near the top. Support from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Region is acknowledged and appreciated. And Bonterra Wines again will be attending our Holiday Party – and bringing a big donation. The amount is being kept secret as a surprise to partygoers.

The CT Store was overhauled in May. Customers now can place orders online instead of via telephone as before. A new fulfillment team, Janet Kiyota and Alan Warner, now ship merchandise from Janet’s home. So far, the results have been favorable. CTF customers are receiving their merchandise quickly and with fewer glitches than before. This is great news, especially given the imminent release of the Eighth Edition of the Colorado Trail Guidebook.

The CTF Board of Directors continues to steer the Foundation and contribute mightily. Chairman Steve Staley, wanting to meet and greet other long-distance travelers, thru-hiked the CT this year for the second time. Upon the advice of Jerry Brown, a longtime volunteer and five-time completer, Steve hiked the opposite direction as most, from Durango to Denver, to encounter the maximum number of users. He and friends Brian Jackson and Bruce Peterson met 128 thru-hikers and probably 300 hikers in total. Steve gave out CT Completion Cards to build awareness about the Foundation and wish everyone well on our behalf. Steve described it as a terrific experience.

As with many other nonprofits this year, the CTF is receiving fewer (and smaller) contributions. We hope that if you enjoy The Colorado Trail and the work the Foundation does that you’ll make a donation today.
Coming Soon - The New CT Guidebook

The eagerly awaited Eighth Edition of The Colorado Trail Guidebook – the first full revision of the guide in five years – is set for release early next year, in time for the 2011 trekking season.

Colorado Trail Foundation Managing Director Bill Manning drew on the talents and expertise of numerous CTF friends and volunteers to compile the most comprehensive guide to the trail yet.

“It’s been a lot of work,” says Manning, who coordinated the overall effort. “The entire book has been rewritten and much improved. There are new photos, new maps, new elevation data, and new tips for hiking the trail.”

Based on preliminary proofs from the publisher, Boulder Bookworks, “it looks fantastic,” Manning adds. “It should be great and I hope it lasts for years.”

The guidebooks follows the format established in earlier editions, dividing the trail into 28 segments from Denver to Durango. Each segment chapter provides general information about the segment; trailhead access directions; information about supplies, services, and accommodations along the route; a detailed trail description, including stream crossings, water sources, and camping spots; and a map, elevation profile, and GPS coordinates for numerous points along the trail.

Carried over from previous editions are “Gudy’s Tips,” short bits of advice for each segment by Gudy Gaskill, the “Mother of the Colorado Trail.”

Updated from previous editions are introductory sections on the heritage, natural history and geology of the CT as well as a planning guide to hiking the trail.

The main contributors put in hundreds of hours bringing the project to completion, Manning says. They are:

- **Jerry Brown**, who surveyed the trail, completing it five times (plus), gathering accurate trail data with professional-grade GPS equipment.
- **George Nesperke**, who compiled trail features data for the guidebook as well as The Colorado Trail Databook and Map Book for improved consistency.
- **Morgan and Robyn Wilkinson**, who refined the guidebook’s trail descriptions.
- **Roger Forman**, who helped sort through all the great photographs taken and donated by many Colorado Trail users.
- **Paul Magnanti**, who used his “triple-crowner” experience to write about lightweight backpacking.
- **Jack Reed**, who drew on his many years with the United States Geological Survey to rewrite the chapter on geology.
- **Tim Burroughs**, who edited this entire guide.
- **Carrie Dittmer**, who assisted with the maps.

Photographers, about 80 of them, contributed. Many other volunteers also assisted, including George Miller, Jon Greeneisen, Gudy and David Gaskill, Carl Brown, Ken Swierenga, Chuck Lawson, Jim Gigone, Pat Rush, Liz Truitt, Cindy Johnson, and Bryan Martin, as well as former CTF office manager Laura Becker.

The project also owes a great debt to those who developed earlier editions of the guidebook, including Randy Jacobs, Terry Root, Merle McDonald, Marilyn Eisele, Suzanne Reed, Marian Phillips as well as the many Colorado Trail users whose experiences helped improve the book.
Trail Crew Roundup

It was another “successful and productive” season for CT trail crews, according to crew coordinator George Miller.

Eleven of the ten weeklong and three weekend crews worked specifically on CT improvements, George said, including “rebuilding tread, adding and refurbishing water diversions, establishing firm trail where it was soggy/boggy, finishing recent reroutes, placing better signage, and reconstructing retaining walls.”

The other two crews worked on Continental Divide Trail Alliance projects “helping to build on the improving relationship we have with that organization,” George said. The Colorado and Continental Divide trails are co-located, sharing about 235 miles of tread.

Following is a brief wrapup of the crews and their accomplishments. (A list of crew members can be found in the Friends section of this issue of Tread Lines. Full crew reports, with photos, can be viewed at ColoradoTrail.org):

Crew 0110 (Phil Smith, leader), Twin Lakes, June 19–26; hours worked: 1,351; work done: Built 120 feet of turnpike, rehabbed 1,200 feet of severely eroded trail.

Crew 0210 (John Lipe and Steve Staley), North Fork, June 19–26; hours worked: 870.25; work done: Widened 927 feet of tread, dry water crossing made into a rolling water bar.

Crew 0310 (Phil Smith), Twin Lakes, July 10–17; hours worked: 525; work done: Cleaned off berm, repaired 15 feet of tread, fixed water seepage area, built retaining wall to stop trail erosion, built five rolling water bars.

Crew 0410 (Ted La May), Molas Pass, July 10–17; hours worked: 841.5; work done: Rehabbed 105 treated post water bars, 37 natural drains, 56 rolling dips, and installed 10 new treated post water bars; also debermed 300 feet of trail.

Crew 0510 (George Miller and Arthur Rankin), Fourmile Creek, July 24–31; hours worked: 824; work done: Replaced the cribbing wall and improved 1,000 feet of trail into and out of the crib wall section.

Crew 0610 (John Lipe and Steve Stadler), Eddiesville, July 24–31; hours worked: 1,240; work done: Corrected braided trail for 1.68 miles, repaired 110 yards of severely eroded trail with rock cribs and rolling dips, built 146 knicks and 44 water diversion structures, relocated and rebuilt 90 yards of trail across solid rock shelf with rock cribbing.

Crew 0710 (Paul Smith), Rolling Pass East, July 24–31 (report unavailable)

Crew 0810 (Gavin Bailey and Bill Carpenter), Hagerman Pass, July 31–Aug. 1; hours worked: 770.5; work done: Improved 2,400 feet of trail, fixed steep rutted section of trail, cut out three trees, fixed and added 74 water diversion features, put in turnpike without ditches in lower section to fix boggy area.

Crew 0910 (Cindy Johnson), Winfield, August 7–14; hours worked: 762; work done: Began working on 300 feet of new tread for the Continental Divide Trail at Avalanche Gulch.

Crew 1010 (Glenn Kepler), Winfield, August 14–21; hours worked: 672; work done: Worked with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, and the U.S. Forest Service on an extension of the Continental Divide Trail toward Hope Pass; built 490 feet of tread and prepared 190 feet more for the next crew.

Crew WE1 (Steve Staley), Twin Lakes, June 5–6; hours worked: 148; work done: Took out Twin Lakes Dam reroute and widened 200 feet of trail.

Crew WE2 (Gavin Bailey and Bill Carpenter), Swan River, June 26–27; hours worked: 152; work done: Placed four "No Motor Vehicles" signs on the trail at four different points intersecting the current ATV road.

Crew WE3 (Cindy Johnson), Squaw Creek, July 10–11; hours worked: 445; work done: Rebuilt a switchback with retaining wall, general trail clean-up, knick and water bar additions, rock, root and downed tree removal.
Something New for Trail Crews in 2011

Trail Crew Coordinator George Miller is planning something new for 2011.

“We are in the process of developing a new type of weekend trail crew for the 2011 season,” he says. “These crews will act as both a training session for trail crew leaders and camp cooks, as well as a chance for longtime volunteers to hone their trail building skills.”

The early-season sessions will be held along the Front Range, according to George.

“Camp will be set up on Thursday afternoon, which will allow for work and training to begin on Friday,” he says. “Work will continue on Saturday and Sunday, with the camp closing on Monday. We will allow volunteers to sign up for any single day or any combination of days during this long weekend.”

This training will incorporate some experimental trail construction ideas with the intent of building The Colorado Trail in a more sustainable manner.

“We will be working on a 2½-mile section of the trail. The plan is to develop it into a model trail to be used for future trail design ideas and trail condition monitoring,” George says. “We will also spend some time on rehabbing an abandoned section of trail to develop our skills for this type of work. Over the next few years we have some very large rerouting projects planned, and this training will help us prepare for these projects.”

George adds: “Watch for our 2011 trail crew schedule, which will come out in early February, and plan on joining us in early June for these valuable and fun-filled work projects. Your volunteerism is the reason The Colorado Trail exists and remains one of the premier long distance trails in the country.”

New Board Members

Since our last edition of Tread Lines, The Colorado Trail Foundation has welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors.

Carol Foster, a CPA of 25 years, responded enthusiastically when asked to become our Treasurer. Carol lives in Estes Park with her husband, Stan, and has climbed nearly all of Colorado’s Fourteens.

Dan Cohen, after four years as CTF Brochures Coordinator, agreed to serve on the Board. Dan, whose education is in geology and business, is close to completing The Colorado Trail. He lives in Golden with his wife, Ilene.

Bill Cartwright has a history with the Rotary Club and Habitat for Humanity and lives in Durango. He has completed several weeklong treks on the CT.

Retiring from the Board are past President Jon Greeneisen, former Treasurer Carol Cameron, Trek Liaison Pete Turner, and former Secretary Pat Nagorka.

A complete list of the current CTF Board Members appears on page 2 of this newsletter.
In the 35–plus years since the CT’s inception, the trail’s eastern terminus has been in Waterton Canyon south of Denver. Not in 2011.

The canyon was closed in August by the Denver Water Board for dredging and silt removal from Strontia Springs Reservoir, about seven miles upstream on the South Platte River.

According to the board, the reservoir contains more than one million cubic yards of sediment – a result of forest fires and subsequent rains over the years – impacting water quality and the functioning of the Foothills and Marston water treatment plants. Plans are remove at least 625,000 cubic yards of sediment – enough to fill Invesco Field at Mile High to a height of more than 200 feet. The road through the canyon is the access point for the heavy equipment and machinery involved in the project.


So what’s a CT user to do?

For one thing, check the CFT home page, ColoradoTrail.org, for updates on the closure and to get information and a map to parking and camping at the Indian Creek Trailhead, the suggested starting point for Segment 1 during the closure.

From the Indian Creek Trailhead, about 10 miles west of Sedalia on Colorado 67, users can travel 6 miles on a single-track trail and connect with the CT near Lenny’s Rest (mile 7.9 of Segment 1) above Waterton Canyon.

An alternative is to skip Segment 1 entirely, beginning at Segment 2 in the South Platte Canyon. More information is available on the website.

Neil Sperandeo, manager of recreation for Denver Water, is upbeat about the project timeline. “The dredging project is going well and it is likely that the Waterton Canyon portion of The Colorado Trail will be open for the 2012 trail season.”

Meet “M.A.”

Meet Aimée O’Malley, the new face — or voice at the other end of the line — in the CTF office.

Aimée (pronounced M.A.), 26, took over in July from former Office Manager Laura Becker, who gave birth to a son, Logan, on July 31.

Aimee, who has a degree in Parks and Recreation Management, moved to Denver from Arizona with husband Pat in 2009. She began training with Laura in June, which led to a smooth transition in duties.

“I love the great people I’ve met and get to work with,” she says of her first few months on the job. “Everyone’s so nice; they’re really special.”

Laura, meanwhile, is enjoying her new role as Logan’s mom. “He is the cutest and most special thing I’ve ever seen,” she says.

All three — Aimée, Laura and Logan — were there to greet those attending the CTF Volunteers Picnic on Sept. 11 at Bear Creek Lake Park in Morrison.
Adopters - The CT’s Eyes and Ears

The Colorado Trail Foundation’s Adopt-A-Trail program has long been a key component in the upkeep of this outdoor treasure. Adopters are the on-the-ground eyes and ears of the organization. (Look for their names in the Friends section of this Tread Lines issue.)

Adopters travel their section at the beginning and end of each hiking season to record trail conditions, remove fallen trees and other obstructions, maintain water diversions and correct minor erosion problems, and notify the foundation of maintenance needs beyond their resources and/or capabilities.

Sixty-two volunteers currently oversee the 63 Adopter sections, which range from 3 to 20 miles in length. Veteran volunteer Janet Farrar oversees the program.

Those filing their annual reports by the end of September had logged nearly 5,500 hours of work on the Trail.

New Adopters this year are:

– Dave Callais (Section 8.2), a longtime Colorado Mountain Club member and volunteer who has organized CMC trail work and thru-hiked the CT in 2008;
– Alan Carpenter (Section 9.2), who thru-hiked the CT in 2009 and did several presentations earlier this year with Managing Director Bill Manning at REI stores around the metro area;
– Eric Mink (Section 10.2);
– John and Betsy Sylvester (Section 11.1), who took over for Trail Crew Leader Phil Smith. (The Sylvesters previously volunteered for several of Smith’s trail crews.);
– Keith and Evelyn Baker (Section 13.1), who own the TrailHead store in Buena Vista. (Merle McDonald had long overseen that section, but was forced to retire for health reasons.)
– Bob Miner (Section 14.4), who took over for his father-in-law, Rolly Rogers;
– Larry and Denise Quinn (Section 17.1);
– Ann Horner and family (Section 17.2);
– Daryll Southwick (Section 21.2), who has family roots in the Lake City/Creede area.
– Loren Woods replaced Merle McDonald as coordinator of Area 5, Sections 16.1 to 20.1. “Sadly,” Janet reports, “Ted Violett passed away earlier this year, but his Adopter partner and wife, Martha, is continuing to gather a group from Western State College in Gunnison to take care of Segment 18.” That is just further testament to the dedication and commitment of CTF volunteers.

“I’m already anxious for the trail crew schedule to get posted (usually in late January or February) so I can decide which crews to sign up for next summer. It’s so rewarding and fulfilling to know that what little bit I do (along with hundreds of other volunteers) can make such a big difference for so many hikers & bikers & equestrians.”

~Jean Mortensen
Aurora, CO
Party Time!

Mark your calendar for The Colorado Trail Foundation’s annual Holiday Reception on Thursday, Dec. 9, at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. (See adjacent invitation for additional information.)

Despite the snow and cold, last year’s event drew nearly 300 CT friends and supporters, including volunteers, local businesses, representatives of other Colorado outdoor groups, trekkers and trek leaders, CT users, and U.S. Forest Service personnel.

Featured were an ongoing slide show of photos taken by CT users, live music by singer-songwriter Pete Kartsournes, and a trekking information booth hosted by Chris Szczech. Hot and cold hors d’oeuvres were served along with wine donated by Peggy and Mike Bond.

CTF supporters affiliated with Bonterra Wines presented a generous contribution of over $16,812.

Please join us for this year’s festivities and show your support for The Colorado Trail.

CTF Holiday Reception!

Date: Thursday, 12/09/2010
Time: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
American Mountaineering Center
710 10th Street
Golden, CO 80401

Parking to the north & east of the building, enter through the north doors.

Cost: FREE!

Your RSVP is desired by December 3rd to the CTF Office.

Contact person: Aimee O’Malley

Phone: 303-384-3729
E-mail: ctf@coloradotrail.org
Never Say Can’t — The Ray Woolf Story

“People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.”

That old Chinese proverb served as inspiration for Ray Woolf as he thru-hiked The Colorado Trail last summer.

For the rest of us, Ray himself should be inspiration enough.

You see, Ray Woolf is no ordinary thru-hiker. He’s a 50-year-old from Highlands Ranch, Colo., facing medical issues that would daunt even the best of us. For a while, it daunted Ray, too. “I gave up on life for a long time,” he says. “I just sat around watching TV and reading murder mysteries.”

And then, in 2009, he decided to take control of his life again. Part of that resolve was to set three goals:

1. To solo thru-hike the CT in the summer of 2010.
2. To put his disability aside and achieve what may seem to be the impossible. To give inspiration to other disabled people. To show that a little determination goes a long way.
3. To raise money for the Scleroderma Foundation.

The latter is a cause near to his heart. Two years ago, he was diagnosed with scleroderma, a chronic connective tissue disease, and hemiatrophy, the atrophying of one side of a body part or organ. In Ray’s case, it’s his left side, including his brain.

“According to my doctors, I have a rare form of a rare disease,” Ray explains. “It leaves lesions in areas and causes atrophy . . . I have lesions on my head that have entered into my brain.”

The effects have been debilitating, forcing him to retire from his business of 20-plus years. The atrophying of his bone, muscle and fat has resulted in a pronounced limp. Lost bone and fat around his right eye led to double vision, requiring the rebuilding of his eye socket. He began suffering seizures in May 2009. Medication controlled those, but not without side effects.

“The meds seem to alter time for me,” he says. “I sometimes am in a daze almost as if I am asleep but yet awake . . . I was losing the battle for my life only because I was not able to experience or enjoy it . . . I lost my drive and seemed to not care.”

Add to that a damaged left knee that requires total replacement (which he is scheduled to undergo this month, November 2010) and Ray might seem the last person who should be taking on such a trek.

“My orthopedic surgeon said most people with my X-ray would be in a wheelchair,” Ray says. “I walk with a cane.”

Or, when on the trail, with hiking poles.

After deciding to “get back to living life again,” Ray, an avid cyclist before being struck by scleroderma, started walking every day. “At first I could only hobble to the mailbox. Then I graduated to 100 feet, then around the block,” he says. “I was getting stronger even though the pain in my left knee was intense.”

His progress continued to where Ray was “able to bear the pain remarkably well,” and culminated with a test hike in May of Segment 1 of the CT — 16.8 miles from Waterton Canyon to South Platte Canyon. It took him about 10 hours, including rest stops.

Unknown to Ray, his wife, Jette, had organized a rescue party of family (Ray and Jette have four adult children and six grandchildren) and friends should he not show up on time. “But I had success!” he says. The following month, he embarked on his thru-hike.

Those close to him were understandably concerned. “My wife, kids and friends think I am out of my mind,” Ray wrote at the time. “Partly because of the brain lesions, but mostly because I shouldn’t be able to do what I’m doing.”

For him, though, hiking the trail gave him “purpose that I have not had in a long time.”

Ray’s plan was to take eight weeks to hike the nearly 500-mile CT, averaging about 10 miles a day. His friends and family would provide support, resupplying him each weekend. To help allay their fears, he carried a GPS tracker that could send messages by satellite, so loved ones could track his progress and know where he was in real time. He also bought and carried a CORSAR (Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue) card, should rescue become necessary.

In the end, he hiked a total of 46 days between the start of his trek in Denver on June 23 and its completion in Durango on Aug. 26, taking off 19 days to rest, attend to personal business, and let his feet heal. “My left, small weak leg does not do its fair share of the work,” Ray explains. “Because I limp and my right foot does most of the pushing and breaking during ascents and descents it (takes) a beating.”

Continued on bottom of pg. 10
CTF-supported treks are one of the greatest and most enjoyable ways to experience The Colorado Trail.

Just listen to the comments of those who participated in one of the eight 4-5-day trips this past summer:

- “All the trips have been wonderful. Each is unique and with varied levels of hiking. I truly have enjoyed each one. And I love meeting the other hikers and sharing a week with each of them.”
- “On a scale of 1 to 10, this was a 10 for me.”
- “It was an amazing experience! The professionalism and service that (trip leader) Chris (Szczech) and his team provided made the trip an incredibly comfortable, yet very challenging week of hiking in some of the most beautiful mountains I have ever seen.”
- “Flat-out fabulous.”
- “Terrific! This was a real luxury camping experience. All of the guides were VERY helpful, and the other hikers make a pleasant group. You’re a tremendously well-organized outfit. I’ll definitely be back!”

Those most responsible for that success are Chris and Jeanne Szczech, owners of Colorado Mountain Expeditions and managers of the CTF’s trekking program, and their staff. This year they guided 96 hikers from 18 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Sweden along several sections of the CT.

“Our goal is to offer a trip that will produce many great memories for years to come,” the Szczechs say.

Limiting group size to 12-14 hikers helps make that possible. Lightening participants’ loads is another. Trekkers carry only their daypacks. Their gear is shuttled to the next camp by the trekking staff. Finally, all meals — described as backcountry gourmet — are provided.

“We like to have fun,” the Szczechs say. “If you have a sense of humor, you will like us. If you are a sourpuss, you will probably be converted by the time you leave.”

More information of about the trekking program is available at ColoradoTrail.org as well as ColoradoTrailHiking.com.

The 2011 trekking schedule will be posted in early December.

Never Say Can’t — The Ray Woolf Story, con’t.

Despite that, he averaged nearly 11 miles a day. His longest day was 20.2 miles; his shortest 2.5. Enviable statistics for any CT thru-hiker.

As for reaching his goals, 1, 2 and 3, are done, done and done. But not ended. Two of those goals — to put his disability aside and inspire others, and to raise money for the Scleroderma Foundation — are ongoing efforts. (To donate to the foundation, visit www.scleroderma.org.) Ray is currently working on a book “about life on The Colorado Trail, comparing it to the trail through life” and has given several presentations to church groups on “overcoming life’s challenges,” using his CT stories as examples.

“I am just an average Joe that has had some unfortunate medical problems,” Ray says. “My problems seem very minor compared to other life-threatening diseases like cancer, Alzheimer’s, or ALS. The list could go on and on.”

“I have been very blessed to be able to have the love and support of both family and friends through my trials and hope to be able to emerge from them a stronger person,” he adds. “I can honestly say that this hike has changed my life. It has given me direction that had been veering off into untold directions with depression and hopelessness.”

He hopes his story will “inspire others with health issues to just get up out of bed and try something, anything to make life more enjoyable.”

We’d say, mission accomplished, Ray.

(To read more about Ray’s journey, from its inception to its conclusion and beyond, visit trailjournals.com/woofer.)
A Tale of Two Trails

Having thru-hiked the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail and the 486-mile Colorado Trail (not to mention the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail), Friend of the CT Paul Magnanti has a better perspective than most on the differences and similarities between these two wilderness gems.

“Both trails are a journey through some of the best scenery and experiences in the America,” he says. “A sunset over a quiet lake in Maine, with only the loons to be heard in the evening air. The sound of elk bugling in a remote valley in the San Juans. A riot of color in the New England fall . . . or of wildflowers blooming in the Rockies.”

These are some of the joys "of being immersed in the wild for days, weeks or (in the case of the AT) for months at a time," Paul says.

Some of the more significant differences between the two journeys:

- The Appalachian Trail runs very close to towns. “On the Colorado Trail, you are often days away from the nearest town,” he says, which means longer distances between resupply points and the need to carry more food.
- With the exception of some brief stretches in New England, most the AT is below treeline. On the high-altitude CT, there is more exposure to the elements for long distances above treeline.
- The CT is well marked by Western trail standards, but still requires more navigational experience than trekking the AT.
- The entire Colorado Trail is open to horses. In non-wilderness areas, mountain bikes are allowed. The Appalachian Trail (with a few exceptions) is exclusively a footpath.
- The CT takes most backpackers 4-6 weeks to hike. The AT takes approximately 5-6 months on average to hike.
- Hiking the CT, which is graded for multiple use in many areas, is often easier than on the older and steeper trails of the East Coast.
- Finally, the elevation, which tops 13,000 feet on the CT, but just over 6,000 feet on the AT.

Differences aside, both trails offer hikers a myriad of “unforgettable experiences,” Paul says.

Social Networking — CTF Style

The Colorado Trail Foundation has joined the “social networking” age with a page on Facebook. Since its creation in May, some 1,000 fans have “friended” the CTF.

“This Facebook community helps draw enthusiasts to the CTF and helps us build awareness for the Foundation as well as keep people informed,” says Managing Director Bill Manning.

It also provides another avenue for CT users to offer feedback, post photos, ask questions, or seek more information about the trail, Bill says.

The Foundation has also added MailChimp, an “eblast service,” to its electronic communications capabilities.

“MailChimp enables the CTF to deliver nicely designed e-mails to thousands in our database all at once,” Bill notes. “These e-mails helped us notify, and secure participation from, volunteers and donors about our Friends Picnic and the Durango Reception.”

We Need Your E-Mail Address!

The Colorado Trail Foundation needs your e-mail address.

We’ve begun to use e-mail more frequently to keep Friends of the CT informed of trail updates, events, etc., partly because it is more environmentally friendly and more cost-efficient.

If you aren’t receiving our e-mails, please send your address to ctf@ColoradoTrail.org.

And don’t forget to add us to your contact list so our e-mails don’t end up in your junk file.

Happy trekking.
Thank You to CTF Friends!

*Donors marked with (*) donated to the Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund.

$10,000+ Top of the Trail

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Brown-Forman + Apex Distributing
REI
Roundup Riders of the Rockies, Heritage & Trails Foundation

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Anonymous
Colorado Lottery
*Jim & Monica Young

$2,500-$4,999 Bristlecone

Dan Bereck

$1,000-$2,499 Benefactor

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Front Range Back Country Horsemanship
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Golden Civic Foundation
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Mary Lynne & Stephen Keller
Charles & Linda Kay Lawson
Merrill Lynch & Co Foundation, Inc.
Microsoft
SB Energy Partners
Steve & Sandy Staley
Adam Williams

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Nan Anderson
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David Black
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“My experiences on the trail were truly amazing, and I will continue to share them with friends, colleagues, and students (I’m a teacher in Arvada). I have met life-long friends and made CT converts of old friends. I can’t thank you enough for all the work you do to maintain this amazing gem in our beautiful state.”

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You made a difference.  You made the trail.  Because of you, the work you’ve done . . . it’s impressive."

~Matt Hart
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~Clay Moore  
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“Thank you (CTF and volunteers) for all you do to maintain the trail and keep it accessible and enjoyable for everyone. It is an awesome trail.”

~Jeff Kemler
Arvada, CO

You Make the Trail!
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“Our group (3 from Amarillo, TX and 1 from Rifle, CO) had a GREAT time on our 5-day hike on the CT. We definitely plan to come back next year, and hopefully for longer! The trail was amazing! CT Foundation, thanks for all your hard work!!”

~Marsh Eskew
Reed, Amarillo, TX
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“…for all that you have done and continue to do to make hiking The Colorado Trail such a fantastic experience. You have our deepest appreciation.”

~Mark Maloney and Melissa Noe
Monument, CO

You Make the Trail!
On my last day on the trail I was joyously kicking along when I caught something out of the corner of my eye. I turned to find a black bear about 15' away. A stand off ensued. He threatened to charge me a few times before rearing up on his hind legs above me. I practiced being as big as possible, making deep, primitive noises and readying my bear mace. Eventually we agreed that a fight would be mutually destructive and he let me watch him dig under rocks for the next 5 minutes.

~Chris Blankenship
New Orleans, LA