



# treadlines

NEWS FROM THE COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Colorado Trail  
Foundation

SUMMER 2012



Shane & his dad, Stan,  
at the Durango finish.

## EPIC *Horseplay*

By Shane Koyle

*What do you call a 50-pound empty pack, 300 pounds of granola, 20 wool blankets, a gallon of bug spray, 140 protein bars, eight leather “handcuffs,” nine extra shoes, a set of hammer and nails, and two adult diapers?*

Before I answer that, let’s go back about a year. My life was in full swing. From dawn till dusk I was at work. When I got home, the honey-do list seemed to

following in his footsteps, and I needed a break. So why not do it with my dad? Show him some gratitude for a life full of rich family times. I could take over the reins with an epic trip.

There’s an old saying about “jumping in feet first.” Well, technically, I wasn’t referring to feet when I called up my good buddy Dalin and asked him if he thought a horseshoe could last 500 miles. Dalin has seen his fair share of hoof, being an expert farrier (aka a horseshoer). He is also a man I trust with my life and is as half-crazy as I am. He quickly replied, “When we leavin’?”

The situation felt sentimental: My dad, a good friend, and me – three country guys with a purpose – riding our horses from Denver to Durango on The Colorado Trail. What would it take, besides a month off work?

Well, let’s start with shoes – the metal ones, I mean. To thru-ride the trail, we figured each rider would need at least three horses: one to ride, one to carry gear, and one to rest. Each horse would need to be shod, which meant 36 shoes to start with and nine spares for along the trail, not to mention the hammer and nails needed to put them on.

Not long after the planning began, so did the bets. Several family members and friends weren’t exactly jumping on the “You-can-ride-the-entire-Colorado-Trail-on-horseback-and-not-get-killed-or-maimed” bandwagon. A map of Colorado hung in my office with sticky notes marking their predictions of how far we would make it.

One thing was for sure, we didn’t want the horses to go hungry. To keep up their weight, the nine horses together would need to consume a minimum of 300 pounds of “granola” (aka grain) and 140 protein bars (aka horse weight supplement) a week. Days and campsites needed to be strategically located to allow them enough time to graze grassy meadows (we used hobbles or “leather handcuffs” to allow the horses movement while grazing) and drink their fill of water.

A typical horse-packing setup weighs about 50 pounds empty. Once we added the necessary horse supplies, man space would be limited. One afternoon I called Dad to talk gear.



Shane Koyle riding Winnie at the  
crest of Searle Pass, Segment 8.

have taken on a life of its own. The house had been claimed by my kids while the dog had started giving me the “When we gonna go on a walk?” look.

I was thinking about how to slow down. I was also thinking about my dad. He’d raised seven kids, been on the job for more than 30 years, and yet always had made time for me. Here I was, well on my way

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

The Colorado Trail® is 500 miles long in the Rocky Mountains between Denver and Durango. It has been described as one of the best trails anywhere, one of the most scenic and among the best maintained. The Trail is a favorite of enthusiasts who hike, mountain bike and ride horseback.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 The 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 and distribute information about The Colorado Trail and Trail Crews. We work in cooperation with public agencies and acknowledge great support from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Region. Donations are needed, much appreciated and tax deductible Non-profit ID #84-1057336.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Update



The recent demise of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, which oversaw the development and maintenance of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

("CDT"), rightly raised concerns and questions among many in the hiking community.

What does it mean to the viability of the CDT? How will it affect The Colorado Trail, with which it shares 230 miles of tread? Who will care for this national treasure? Does The Colorado Trail Foundation face similar problems?

All good questions. Some we already know the answers to; some are still being addressed.

But first some background. In a recent letter the CDTA explained why the Alliance ceased operations last December and officially dissolved on March 19:

"1. Increasing pressures from development in the West, rising land costs, and challenges with the longstanding down cycle in the economy threaten the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Despite the strong level of financial support from so many individuals and entities, overall contributions and other revenues in recent years significantly declined.

"2. The business climate is very different today than in years past, as is the reality that nonprofit organizations are seeking a diminishing supply of philanthropic funds. These revenues are the life-blood of nonprofit organizations like the CDTA, and the CDTA's obligations far exceeded its revenues.

"3. As a result, the cumulative effects of the above forced the very difficult and painful decision of the CDTA Board of Directors to cease operations . . ."

Fortunately, The Colorado Trail Foundation faces no such danger, thanks to our strong base of volunteers and other supporters, our lean operating costs, and the tight controls we have in place over our budget and investments.

But that doesn't mean we can become complacent. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that we still need you, our Friends of The Colorado Trail. Your continued support, both as volunteers and contributors, is critical to our continued success.

CTF Board Chairman **Steve Staley** got an up close look at the Alliance's financial situation when the CDTA asked the banking industry veteran to lend his expertise during its final months as it headed toward dissolution. He worked with CDTA staff almost daily during the six weeks leading up to its liquidation.

During that time he gained firsthand knowledge of what went wrong with the CDTA, but also a greater appreciation that

the path The Colorado Trail Foundation is taking is the right one.

We have kept our expenses low, maintaining an office staff of only two in a headquarters still limited to a single room. We organize things to keep CTF volunteers involved. Our wonderful volunteers continue to give their time, assisting with everything from trail work to database entry. CTF pleas for support continue to be answered. Revenues have remained level thanks to donations and grants from our financial Friends. Thankfully, and in contrast to the CDTA, the CTF continues to thrive.

Meanwhile, though the CDTA is dead, the CDT is very much alive! What things are happening on the CDT? First, The Colorado Trail Foundation will continue its commitment to signing and maintaining the "co-located" miles we share. In addition, three of our trail crews this summer will be building CD Trail, a role we are happy to be able to perform.

Next, other groups are helping as well. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado has offered "to provide continuing leadership, experience, and continuity in providing volunteer opportunities on the CDT," according to the CDTA's legal counsel. As part of that effort it will post CDT projects in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho on its website.

In addition, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will sponsor CDT projects this summer. Those who would like to work on the trail can contact their local Forest Service or BLM office for more information.

Finally, there are indications that another group may rise from the CDTA's ashes and take over stewardship of the CDT. We are certainly hopeful that will come about.

Meanwhile, we plan to continue serving as an example of what big things a small nonprofit organization with a large volunteer base such as ours can accomplish with hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to a cause such as The Colorado Trail.



The CT and CDT are co-located for 230 miles, all maintained by the CTF.

- CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

"Hey Dad, how do you feel about using bivy sacks and sleeping under the stars?"

"A bivy what?" he replied. "Are you sure there are no hotels?"

"No Dad, but there will be 20 wool saddle blankets you can use at night."

At age 65, my dad had every right to want a little comfort. But he'd been on enough pack trips to understand our limitations. We'd sleep under the stars, eat dehydrated soup, oatmeal and trail mix. Mornings would begin with two hours of horse feeding, watering and saddling, as well as weighing and balancing gear for the packs.

In the evenings before the trip began I spent hours on the logistics of getting nine horses and three riders across 500 miles of mountainous country. Taking horses wouldn't make this journey easier, but for me, it would make it more worthwhile.

Over my life I've spent countless hours on a horse, riding every kind of terrain and every kind of horse. With experience comes respect and a certain appreciation for the partnership between a man and his horse. We could do this, I knew.

So last July, Dad, Dalin and I adjusted our saddles, grabbed our lead ropes, and told our families goodbye. Our adventure was beginning. It wasn't long until the mountain vistas began to grow before our eyes and we were being swallowed up by the backcountry of Colorado.

As we rode, one of us would point out a high mountain pass or rugged ridgeline we were bound to cross. Quite often one of us would reply, "The trail goes where?" The sheer magnitude of a mountainside is magnified when you are about five feet higher than normal, sitting on a horse. Each narrow bridge or downed tree has its moment as your horse passes it. Breathtaking moments last a little longer as you ride across a ridgeline or around a mountain lake.



Riding horses gave us a chance to breathe, watch, and enjoy what The Colorado Trail has to offer. In one day the Trail could take you through a golf course and ski resort, across a historic army base, over train tracks, and up and across a 12,000-foot pass. The weather could be sunny and warm one minute and turn to sheets of rain and chilly winds in another. Over our 29 days on the Trail we experienced the diversity of Mother Nature and an appreciation for her power.

On our last day, as the horses started down the hillside toward Durango, I looked at my dad. It had been perfect; without reservation I could say that there was no one else I would have rather ridden with. There'd been scrapes, bruises, and a couple of falls, but no major mishaps. Which brings me back to those adult diapers. No one needed them, not even the horses. This is, of course, why we brought them: They make good horse-size Band Aids.

So, what do you call a 50-pound empty pack, 300 pounds of granola, 20 wool blankets, a gallon of bug spray, 140 protein bars, eight leather "handcuffs," nine extra shoes, a set of hammer and nails, and two adult diapers?

**One epic adventure.**

*(Shane Koyle, of Arvada, is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.)*

## HOW DID YOU GET *Your* TRAIL NAME?

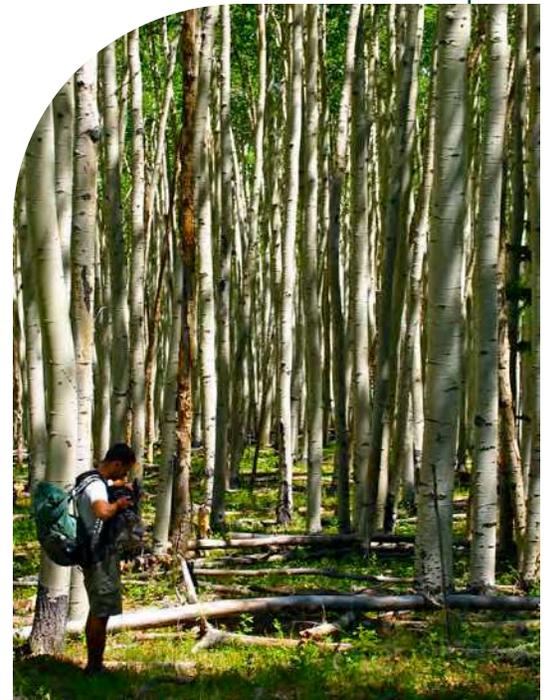
SOME COLORADO TRAIL HIKERS FILLED US IN:

**Matthew "Wings" Wolf, Ohio** – "I got my trail name, Wings, a few years ago while hiking here in Ohio. I usually hike at a pretty good pace. One time I was hiking with my brother and his girlfriend and I got to the place we planned to camp that night and set down my pack and hiked back about a mile to help Kimberly carry her pack to the site. They called me Wings. Then On the CT the name was resurrected and really earned. I had some injuries early on that really slowed me down, but after about 300 miles I was back to my pace. My trail mates stated called me Wings, and it stuck."

**Jon "Mud Foot" Riley, Georgia** – "It was given to me on the Appalachian Trail in Vermont (replacing "Just Jon") when I attempted to run across a long muddy stretch of trail. I was hoping that my speed and momentum would allow me to glide across the top. However, it didn't go as planned. I believe it was my right foot that dropped down about 1½ feet into the muck and it sucked my shoe clean off, sending me to the ground. The CT was not nearly as muddy at the AT, but I still managed to live up to my name a few times."

**Mike "Two Staffs" Roberts** – "My friends gave me that name and made fun of me 20 years ago when I started hiking with two staffs instead of one. Now that they are older, they have stopped making fun of me and won't hike without two staffs."

**Shirley "Bama" Funderburk, Alabama** – "My name came about in 2005 when I hike rim to rim in the Grand Canyon. Everyone I was hiking with was from the North, East, or West. I was the only Southern girl there, with a strong Southern accent, and they knew where I was from before I told them. In 2006 when I thru-hike the AT, I chose the trail name "Bama" and was never asked to explain."



*"Mud Foot" captures friend passing through dense aspen.*

# TREK *Along With Us*

You love to hike, but going it alone just isn't your style. In fact, a guided trip would suit you just fine. Oh, and if you had your druthers, it would be great if someone else toted your heavy gear for you to the next campsite.

Throw in a shower, hot meals and cold drinks at the end of the day and you've described The Colorado Trail Foundation's Trekking Program, led by **Chris and Jeanne Szczech** of Colorado Mountain Expeditions and their staff of qualified guides.

Of the nine treks scheduled for 2012, five are already filled, so make your reservations now.



## THIS YEAR'S TREKS:

- » **Section 1** – Waterton Canyon to Kenosha Pass, June 10-15. Featuring a wide variety of terrain from rocky ridges to lush meadows at relatively low elevation.
- » **Section 2** – Kenosha Pass to Camp Hale, June 17-23. FULL
- » **Section 3** – Camp Hale to Clear Creek, June 24-29. A great section for those newer to hiking, with four of the six campsites located in Forest Service campgrounds.
- » **Section 4** – Clear Creek to Marshall Pass, July 1-6. FULL
- » **Section 5** – Marshall Pass to San Luis Pass, July 8-13. FULL
- » **Sections 6A and 6B** – San Luis Pass to Molas Pass, July 15-21 and Aug. 5-11. Aimed at hikers experienced with long hiking days at elevations of 12,000-13,000 feet. Includes the extraordinarily scenic new reroute of The Colorado Trail along Cataract Ridge.
- » **Sections 7A and 7B** – Molas Pass to Durango, July 22-27 and Aug. 12-17. FULL

The all-inclusive price is \$975 per trek. For full information, click the link at [ColoradoTrail.org](http://ColoradoTrail.org) or go to [ColoradoExpeditions.com](http://ColoradoExpeditions.com).



## 2011 *Trekking Numbers*

NUMBER OF TREKKERS: 113

WHERE FROM: 22 states (including 54 from Colorado) and Washington, D.C., Canada, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, and Australia

RETURNERS: 52 were back from previous years

COMPLETERS: 3

YOUNGEST: 20

OLDEST: 73

# TRAIL CREWS EXTEND STEWARDSHIP *Beyond The CT*



Sorry, we're full up. We hate saying it, but we love seeing it.

As of mid-April, eight of eleven summer Trail Crews have been filled, representing more than 175 volunteers. Only a few openings remain for the three other crews, which will total another 65 workers.

While the focus of our Trail Crews always has been on the CT itself, this year four of our crews will be

acting as "good neighbors," three by working on new sections of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and another by working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service's Salida Ranger District in building a new trail into the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness on the edge of South Park.

The Colorado Trail and Continental Divide Trail currently share 230 miles of "co-located" tread, so our CTF work on these CT sections has a double benefit. Because the CTF has always maintained these sections, the recent demise of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (see related story in this issue of Tread Lines) doesn't appreciably affect The Colorado Trail Foundation's future role in caring for those co-located miles.

## THIS YEAR'S CREWS AND PLANNED WORK ARE:

- » 0112, Lost Park (South Park Ranger District), June 30-July 7, CT Segment 4. **Tom Brooksher**, leader, and 25 volunteers. Crew members will build water control structures and firm the tread in this boggy area. FULL
- » 0212, Guller Creek Bridge (Dillon Ranger District), July 7-14, CT Segment 8. **Steve Stadler** and **John Lipe**, leaders, and 25 volunteers. Crew members will rebuild a failing trail bridge and make other improvements. FULL
- » 0312, Snow Mesa (Creede Ranger District), July 14-21, CT Segment 21. **Loren Woods**, leader, and 12 volunteers. Crew members will improve the co-located CT/CDT and remove a large rock in the trail that has been troublesome for equestrians and others. FULL
- » 0412, South Fooses Bridges (Salida Ranger District), July 21-28, CT Segment 15. **Bill Carpenter**, leader, and 25 volunteers. Crew members will rebuild two bridges. FULL
- » 0512, Morrison Creek (Leadville Ranger District), July 28-Aug. 4, CT Segment 12. **Paul Smith**, leader, and 20 volunteers. Crew members will improve the CT north toward Morrison and Pine creeks.

- » 0612, Tunnel Gulch (Salida Ranger District), Aug. 1-5. **John Lipe**, leader, and 25 volunteers. Crew members will build a new section of the CDT above the ghost town of St. Elmo. FULL
- » 0712, Morrison Creek (Leadville Ranger District), Aug. 4-11. **Loren Woods**, leader, and 20 volunteers. Same as 0512.
- » 0812, Winfield (Leadville Ranger District), Aug. 11-18. **Cindy Johnson**, leader, and 25 volunteers. Crew members will extend a new section of the CDT above the ghost town of Winfield. FULL



2011 Women's Crew volunteers agreed, "An awesome vacation."

- » 0912, Winfield (Leadville Ranger District), Aug. 18-25. **Glenn Kepler**, leader, and 25 volunteers. Same as 0812.
- » 1012, Buffalo Peaks (Salida Ranger District), Aug. 18-25. **Bill Carpenter**, leader, and 15 volunteers. In partnership with the Salida RD, this crew will build a new trail into the Buffalo Peaks Wilderness on the edge of South Park. FULL
- » WE112, Camp Hale (Holy Cross Ranger District), July 12-15. **Cindy Johnson**, leader, and 25 volunteers. This popular women's-only weekend crew will improve trail sustainability, adding better drainage along Cataract Creek toward Kokomo Pass. FULL



## SAVE *the* DATES

Get out your calendars and mark down these popular annual events for our friends and volunteers. Then, join us and have some fun.

**Sept. 15** – Friends Thank You Picnic  
12:Noon-3:00 p.m., Bear Creek Lake Park, Lakewood.

**Oct. 6** – Durango Friends Reception  
4:00-7:00 p.m., Carver Brewing Co., Durango.

**Dec. 6** – Holiday Reception  
4:00-7:00, American Mountaineering Center, Golden.

Log on to the Colorado Trail website, [ColoradoTrail.org](http://ColoradoTrail.org), for more information and to download registration and waiver forms. Weeklong crews are \$60 per person.

# Segment 1 START/FINISH REOPENED

## THE COLORADO TRAIL IS BACK ON TRACK.

Waterton Canyon, the traditional starting (or finishing) point for the CT, has reopened to hikers after being closed for the entire 2011 hiking season to make way for work by the Denver Water Board to remove 625,000 cubic yards of sediment from Strontia Springs Reservoir upstream on the South Platte River. The sediment buildup, the result of recent forest fires, was impacting water quality and treatment plants downriver.

During the closure most Durango-bound thru-travelers began at the Indian Creek Trailhead, about 10 miles to the south, the alternate route recommended by The Colorado Trail Foundation. The Indian Creek Loop Trail intersects with the CT at Lenny's Rest at about Mile 8.

To commemorate the final reopening on April 23, 2012, a large new sign was installed at the Waterton Trailhead by the U.S. Forest Service, marking the official start/finish of The Colorado Trail.



## Adopters, THE FRONT LINE

So, you ask, how does a two-person Colorado Trail staff in Golden manage to keep track of nearly 500 miles of trail?

With a lot of help, that's how.

Users play a part, providing updates on signage, washouts, downed trees, and other trail conditions. But the best eyes and ears belong to our Adopters – volunteers who take a stretch of trail, ranging from 3 to nearly 20 miles, under their wing, go over it at the beginning and end of the trail season, and perform the routine-type maintenance needed to keep it open and safe for hikers, bikers, riders, and other users.

That includes removing fallen trees and other obstructions, maintaining water diversions, and correcting minor erosion problems.

When major work is required, such as when **Jon and Marylin**

**Greeneisen** discovered more than 50 downed trees this spring on their section near Buena Vista, they notify the CT office and call in reinforcements.

Last year, Adopters and their helpers – more than 250 in all – put in nearly 2,500 hours of work on the Trail. That should be the case again in 2012.

“We are looking forward to a busy and productive summer, with several new Adopters,” says **Janet Farrar**, Adopt-A-Trail coordinator. One of their jobs will be putting up hundreds of new metal CT and Continental Divide Trail confidence markers along the route, she says.

“Janet does a fantastic job of making sure all 64 Adopter sections are covered,” says CTF Executive Director Bill Manning. “It’s not an easy task.”

One of the big improvements under Farrar’s watch is better and more consistent reporting on Trail conditions. Taking that a step further, she and CT Office Manager **Aimée O’Malley** spent hours developing a new easy-to-complete online form on the CT website.

“It was a monumental task due to the technical challenges of programming the forms so they could be filled out electronically,” Manning says.

Farrar, a CT completer, is on her way to finishing the trail for a second time.

“I got out again last summer for my CT fix, hiking and backpacking eight more segments, including Segments 22-24, the new Cataract Ridge reroute. It was stupendous,” she says. “So, I have just seven more segments to go to finish for the second time. I always cherish my time out on the CT.”

Those interested in becoming an Adopter can contact Farrar at [wildjc@juno.com](mailto:wildjc@juno.com) or the CT office, [ctf@ColoradoTrail.org](mailto:ctf@ColoradoTrail.org).



# HAVE *You* MADE THE LIST?

Are you a completer? First, congratulations! Second, are you on the list?

Now available online at ColoradoTrail.org (see Trip Planning > CT Completers) is a compilation of those who have covered all 486 miles of The Colorado Trail. Those we know about anyway.

We want to recognize every hiker, biker, horse rider, and others – unicyclers, pogo-stickers, roller-bladers? – who have completed the Trail. But we can't do it without your help: You have to let us know.

It's easy. You can fill out a completer application on our website and e-mail it to us or print the form and mail it in. Either way, once that's done you'll be added to our growing list.

Hey, you deserve the recognition. Taking on a trail with an average elevation of 10,300 feet is no small thing. It's a major accomplishment and we hope you had the experience of a lifetime.

Now, take one more step and tell us about it.



Completers, *Julie Vida and Mark Tabb*, near their Denver finish.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS WELCOMED, *Outgoing Trio Lauded*

Three new members have joined to The Colorado Trail Foundation's Board of Directors and three outgoing members thanked for their years of service.

### THE NEW MEMBERS:

**Tim Burroughs**, Lakewood, a lifelong hiker and backpacker, retired from a career in newspaper and magazine journalism after the Rocky Mountain News, where he had worked for 21 years, closed in 2009. He now helps produce the CTF's Tread Lines newsletter. He thru-hiked the CT last summer.

**Steve Stadler**, Colorado Springs, has 40 years of experience in government and industry and is currently president of Space Vision LLC, a small business consultancy. His outdoor experience dates back to the 1960s, when he worked as a mule packer and guide in the Sierra Nevada. He began hiking the CT in 2001 and completed in 2005. He had been an Adopter of Segment 20.1 (Eddiesville to San Luis Pass) since 2007.

**Blake Welch**, Louisville, is the owner/principal of Welch Creative Group Inc., a communication design firm in Denver. An avid hiker, he completed the CT in 2010 – one week at a time over seven years. He currently lends his skills to the design and production of Tread Lines and other CTF publications.

### THE OUTGOING MEMBERS:

**Sam Davis**, Centennial, served on the board from 2007-2012. As the board's investment manager, he employed outside counselors, invested in three new funds, and simplified our asset allocation, directing a full recovery from the 2008 market downturn. A CT completer – finishing the Trail in 2004 after eight years of segment hiking – he was actively involved in outreach activities to other CT hikers.

**John Lipe**, Castle Rock, 2009-2012. As a member of the board's Planning Committee, he reviewed and reported on proposed Forest Service actions. A trail crew participant since the early 2000s, he started leading crews in 2005. Since then he has led ten crews in maintaining and upgrading the Trail, developing a loyal following of repeat volunteers. An Adopter for many years, he continues to maintain a stretch of trail beneath Mount Shavano. In recognition of his work, the Forest Service has named one of his project areas Lipe Meadow.

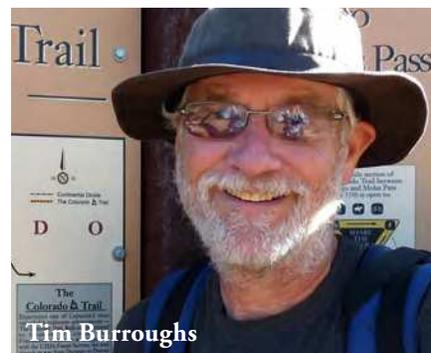
**Ken Swierenga**, Parker, 2006-2012. Early in his tenure, he became integrally involved in finding a provider for the CT store fulfillment process, which freed up office staff for other duties. He also took on the task of creating a design and finding a supplier for start/finish monuments at the Denver and Durango ends of the Trail. He also was a vital part of the Friends Committee, assisting with annual events honoring volunteers and other supporters.



Blake Welch



Steve Stadler



Tim Burroughs



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