Bob Benson was beaming. Standing next to a giant check for $40,000 he’d just presented to The Colorado Trail Foundation on behalf of the Benson Family Foundation, he was awash in applause from more than 300 people attending the CTF’s annual Holiday Party on Dec. 8 in Golden.

The challenge grant, which was offered to the CTF in September on the condition that it come up with $80,000 in new matching donations by the end of 2016, is believed to be the largest individual contribution ever to The Colorado Trail Foundation. The challenge seemed daunting, Executive Director Bill Manning said at the time.

But no worries. The response to an October Friends letter announcing the challenge was overwhelming, with the needed amount coming in well before the Dec. 31 deadline, he said. “The $80,000 came from several large contributors and many small ones,” he said. “The response was more than gratifying.”

Benson had approached Manning in September to offer his support to the CTF. After learning of the push to build a new Field Operations Center in Poncha Springs, Benson came up with the challenge grant that in effect resulted in raising more than $120,000 toward the project.

“This was one of those happy events where a big contributor came forward at a time when The Colorado Trail Foundation had a big need,” Manning said.

Meanwhile, a fund-raising committee led by CTF Board Member Steve Stadler also found success elsewhere. A grant proposal to the Gates Family Foundation at the end of last year was met by a $25,000 check for the FOC. The Denver-based Gates Foundation is one of the largest philanthropic organizations in Colorado. A grant from the foundation when a “Colorado Trail” was just an idea was key in its eventual development.

Another $3,000 in operating funds was granted to the CTF by the Summit Foundation, which supports organizations active in Summit County and surrounding communities that foster health and human services, education, art and culture, sports and recreation, and environmental stewardship. Parts of Segments 6-8 of the CT pass through Summit County.

— Continued on page 7
Tread Lines is the newsletter of The Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published twice a year.

The Executive Director, Steve Tick, and the Board of Directors of The Colorado Trail Foundation.

From England with Love

“I traveled 4,589 miles to walk the 486 miles of The Colorado Trail. I finished in a thunderstorm after 46 days on the Trail plus seven zero days. I owe it all to the people along the Trail and all the great people I met along the way.

To start, I want to thank those who made the trip possible. I owe my successful completion of the Trail to the dedication, encouragement, and support of many people. I want to specifically thank those who helped me along the way. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

I met many wonderful people along the Trail. Some of them were strangers, but others became friends. We shared our experiences and stories, and we helped each other through the ups and downs of the Trail.

One of the highlights of my trip was meeting Gudy Gaskill. She was a true pioneer and an inspiration to me. I met her in Denver, Colorado, and she invited me to join her on the Trail. She was always there to encourage me and provide guidance.

I also want to thank my family and friends who supported me during my trip. They helped me prepare physically and mentally, and they cheered me on throughout my journey.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone who supported me during my trip. I owe my successful completion of the Trail to the dedication, encouragement, and support of many people. I will always cherish the memories I made along the Trail and the people I met.

— JAMES BOUTLER, NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND 2016 CT Complier
Trail Crews Offer Something for Everyone

Would you like to join a trail crew this summer but can’t spare an entire week? No problem! Of the 17 crews The Colorado Trail Foundation is sending out this season, only seven run the traditional seven or eight days. The rest span from one to five days. It’s part of an effort to get more families, singles and working couples to join in on the fun.

So, okay, there is work involved, but nearly everyone who has participated in our crews over the years says it’s some of the most rewarding work they’ve done with lots of great people who share their love of the outdoors. Thus the large number of returns each year.

Crew leaders provide the training, tools, hiking, meals (except for backpack crews), group camping equipment, and leadership. Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation to the crew location and for their personal equipment, including tent or camper, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, eating utensils, work clothes, and other personal items.

Crews will be working all along the Trail this season, from Buffalo Creek, just south of Denver, to near Silverton in the southwestern part of the state. That latter crew will travel into and out of the work site on the historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Crews are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up forms, liability waivers and additional information are available at http://www.coloradotrail.org/crewshub/index.html

2017 CREW SCHEDULE

CREW 0117, BASHOFT K FULL
CREW 0217, NORTH FORK SWAN RIVER FULL
CREW 0317, NORTH FORK SWAN RIVER FULL
CREW 0417, SOUTH CLEAR CREEK FULL
CREW 0517, HANCOCK I FULL
CREW 0617, WOMEN-ONLY, WINFIELD FULL
CREW 0717, JEFFERSON............$75
July 8-15 (8-day)
Glenn Kepler: gkepler2@cox.net or (303) 278-7795
BASECAMP 2WD: Help construct a causeway to elevate the trail road and eliminate a muddy section of trail on this week-long crew. A 2-mile hike (one-way) and 800-ft climb will be required to reach the project location each day. Enjoy fishing or hiking in Kansas or George Pass on hiking or fishing at Jefferson Lake on Wednesday off. Elevation 10,500 ft., Segment 6, South Park RD
CREW 0817, KENOSHA PASS FULL
CREW 0917, SAN LUIS PASS............$40
July 15-19 (5-day)
Loren Woods: lwoods1895757@msn.com or (720) 940-4882
BACKPACK HCV: This crew will construct and maintain drains in the remote La Garita Wilderness near San Luis Pass. Camp will be up in 4 miles from the trailhead. This will be a strenuous crew at high elevation, much of it above timberline. Elevation 12,000 ft., Segment 2021, Gunnison and Delta RD
CREW 1017, HANCOCK II............$75
July 22-29 (8-day)
Bill Carpenter: (303) 444-2024
BASECAMP HCV: This crew will continue building new trail above the old railroad grade near the town of Hancock to ease the trail of a 4WD road. The new trail will become a new portion of the Collegiate West combined CT-CDT. Previous CTF crews and other organizations have completed approximately 2 miles of the 3.4 mile route. Camp will be near the Hancock townsite. Parking is available nearby for those without HCV. A daily 2-mile hike (one-way) will be required to reach the project locations. Wednesday off can be used to hike to the historic Alpine Tunnel or mountain bike to the Tincup Pass road, or for a more relaxing outing, walk to Mount Precious Hot Springs. This is a strenuous, high-altitude crew. Elevation 13,500 ft., Sections 28W4, Salida RD
CREW 1117, TENNESSEE PASS FULL
CREW 1217, TURQUOISE LAKE FULL
CREW 1317, SILVER CREEK TRAILHEAD............$15
August 5 (1-day)
Brent Adams: bent@coloradotrail.org or (719) 530-1023
ONE-DAY 2WD. This crew will construct rock steps up an embankment, build new tread, and install signs for a short realignment of a trail segment bounded by the North Fork Cannondale Creek. The project site is at the trailhead. Lunch will be provided. Elevation 9,400 ft., Segment 13, Salida RD
CREW 1417, COCHITOPA CREEK FULL
CREW 1517, ILLINOIS CREEK...............$40
August 19-25 (7-day)
Dave Landers: cllanders@gmail.com or (970) 225-9605
BACKPACK HCV: This crew will build new trail to the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness near the trail off of the motorized Timberline Trail. The new trail will be located below the Three Apostles with stunning views of the Taylor Lake basin and beyond, and will become a new portion of the Collegiate West combined CT-CDT when completed. Camp will be located approximately 2.5 miles and 1,400 ft. climbing from the end of the Illinois Creek road and will include some moderate off-trail trail building. USFS pack string support will be provided to shuttle tools on the trail section of the approach. This will be a strenuous crew at high elevation, much of it above timberline. Elevation 12,000 ft., Segment CW02, Gunnison RD
CREW 1617, ELK CREEK...............$40
September 2-8 (7-day)
Connie Warren: cray@frontier.net or (970) 255-8840
BASECAMP 2WD: Work will consist of transporting heavy tools to rip up a bank of Elk Creek to protect the trail from erosion. Additional work will consist of constructing a retaining wall to stabilize the bank that is causing Elk Creek into the eroding bank. This work will involve some wading in the creek and appropriate footwear is recommended. The project site is an approximate 1-mile moderate hike from camp. The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad is donating transport of crew members and tools to the Elk Park flagstop. This is a backcountry-style crew, even though camp is only a short walk from the flagstop. This is a very strenuous crew at moderate elevation.
Elevation 9,000 ft., Segment 24, Cimolobue RD
CREW 1717, CTF FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER...............$60
TBD (Probably October) (4-day)
George Miller: gmicel@comcast.net or (719) 641-8968
BASECAMP 2WD: Join us in completing the CTF Field Operations Center in Rulaha Springs and getting it ready for use. Work will consist of creating landscaping, spreading gravel, installing shelving, and similar tasks. Camping will be available on the FOX property.
COLORADO TRAIL LOSES A GREAT FRIEND

If you worked on a trail crew in the Salida Ranger District over the past several years, you may have been fortunate enough to have encountered—and worked alongside—Trails Specialist Brett Beasley. A big supporter of The Colorado Trail, Brett’s assistance was key to a number of improvements to the Trail.

So it was with great sadness that the CTF learned of his tragic death from hypothermia in the Colorado backcountry above Turquoise Lake above Leadville in January. Brett, 47, was on a ski trip to Uncle Bud’s Hut with his daughter, Brooke, and several friends. After spending the night of Jan. 3 at the 10th Mountain Division hut, the group decided to do some skiing and practice avalanche safety.

Brett and 14-year-old Cole Schaler became separated from the group, however, became lost and were forced to shelter the night in a snow cave. The following day, they attempted to ski out to safety. When found my rescuers, Brett was alive, but died soon after of the effects of hypothermia. Cole survived.

Dr. Brett Beasley with his wife, Cari, and two daughters, Brooke, 15, and Bari, 17. He was an avid skier, mountain biker, musician and fisherman. Trail building was not only part of his job, but a passion he pursued even in his time off.

A memorial service was held Feb. 10 in Salida. Several people representing the CTF attended, including Executive Director Bill Manning, Board President Steve Staley, Field Operations Manager Brent Adams, and longtime crew leader John Lipe, who had worked closely with Brett over the years.

“I was amazed at the number of volunteer crews he was able to take care of with a minimum of help,” Lipe said. “Brett had a ready smile and I never heard him say anything negative about his employer, our volunteers, the CTF or anyone else. Always positive and with a keen sense of humor, he was a pleasure to work with.” Adams added, “I can’t say enough good things about Brett and how much richer my life is, as well as the lives of our crew leaders and volunteers are, for having worked with Brett on CTF trail crews. His love for trails and the outdoors was obvious, but what also came through was his desire that our volunteers have a positive experience, regardless of the amount of trail work completed.”

Apparently, the feeling was mutual.

Brent Adams, the CTF’s Forest Service supervisor, responded to condolences from the CTF, writing that “Brett and I talked often about how much he enjoyed each and every one of you,” and added, “Brett was a legend in every sense of the word and his positive presence will forever be felt in our community.”

Brett was an avid skier, mountain biker, musician and fisherman. Trail building was not only part of his job, but a passion he pursued even in his time off.

CT CABIN SALE PROCEEDS WILL HELP FUND FOC

Many longtime Friends of The Colorado Trail remember lovely summer weeks at the CTF cabin in the San Juan Mountains near Lake City taking classes ranging from geology to pastel painting, photography to mountain climbing and orienteering.

The late Gudy Gaskill spearheaded the purchase of the one-room cabin, nestled below three 14,000-foot peaks near Cinnamon Pass, in 1995 as a permanent site for a summer educational program she’d started in 1989, two years after the Trail was linked end to end. As Gudy’s involvement waned, however, so did the classes, which were discontinued in 2010. The cabin was leased for a couple of summers to Fort Lewis College, but has been largely unused since then.

When fund-raising efforts began last year for the new Field Operations Center in Poncha Springs, it seemed the opportune time to sell the property, which includes 10 acres of land, and put the proceeds toward the FOC construction.

Sale of the cabin, brokered by Team Murphy Realty in Lake City, was completed last December, a little more than five months after Gudy’s death.

“Though close to her heart, over the years Gudy warmed to the idea of selling the cabin, particularly at the thought that the money might be a big help to the Foundation,” said CTF Executive Director Bill Manning. “I think she would be happy with the results.”

After commissions and fees, the transaction netted $222,000 for the Foundation, about a quarter of the estimated cost of the Field Operations Center.

Those wishing to see the cabin one last time will have the opportunity in June, when a CTF crew will move a large storage shed on the property that was a condition of the sale. For more information, check out this summer’s trail crew schedule on page 4 or log on to ColoradoTrail.org.

FOC Groundbreaking ... (continued from pp.1)

Brent Adams, a civil and environmental engineer before joining the CTF in 2015, is overseeing the project. He said the Foundation expects to have the site and structural plans ready, needed permits obtained; and a construction contract signed in time to begin construction as soon as the weather permits. The aim is to have the buildings completed by late summer or early fall.

A four-day crew led by longtime Operations Manager George Miller is scheduled to work at the site in the fall, putting on the finishing touches, including landscaping.

The Foundation hopes to be able to offer tours of the new facility during the Oct. 14 weekend, when the Board of Directors will be meeting in Salida. A social event for volunteers and other CTF supporters, similar to the Durango Soiree that has been held for the past few years, is scheduled for that evening. More details will be released via the Internet and in the fall issue of Tread Lines.
Step Up and **Lend a Hand**

The Colorado Trail Foundation has been fortunate over the years to partner with a few large donors to fund our ongoing trail building and maintenance operations. But that’s only half the story. The remainder of what we raise annually comes from hundreds of “small” donors who chip in $25, $50, or $100 in appreciation for the outdoor opportunities afforded by The Colorado Trail. Every one of these Friends of The Colorado Trail makes an important contribution to sustaining our mission. Please consider becoming one of them.

In addition to volunteering your time, here are a few other ways you can help:

**DONATE ONLINE:** Donate online: You can donate online on the ColoradoTrail.org website. Simply click the “Donate Now” button on the left side of the home page to give via a credit card or PayPal. Better yet . . .

**MAKE A RECURRING GIFT:** You can do this by checking the box on the donation page to “Make This Recurring (Monthly).” Many donors find that giving $10, $15, $20, or more in a regular monthly withdrawal is a much more convenient way to give.

**COLORADO GIVES DAY:** A program of the Community First Foundation, Colorado Gives Day, held in December each year, is aimed at increasing contributions to more than 1,600 nonprofit organizations in the state. Watch for CTF e-mails or check on Facebook for the date of this year’s event. For more information, go to ColoradoGives.org.

**AMAZONSMILE:** Through its AmazonSmile philanthropic program, Amazon contributes a half percent of eligible purchases to the buyer’s designated charity. Go to Smile.Amazon.com when buying through Amazon and select The Colorado Trail Foundation as your designated charity.

**CT STORE:** Purchase any of the Trail-related items – maps, guidebooks, clothing, tools and commemoratives – from the CTF’s online store and the profits from the sale goes to the Foundation. You can access the store through the ColoradoTrail.org home page.

**LEGACY GIVING:** Help ensure that the Trail will be here for future generations by including The Colorado Trail Foundation in your will or living trust. Your financial advisor, attorney or accountant can help you set up a charitable gift to the Foundation in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, or from proceeds of insurance policies or the sale of property. You can also designate the CTF as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA or pension plan.