AMONG OUR MOST DEDICATED AND HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS are the men and women who lead our summer trail crews. They are key players in helping The Colorado Trail Foundation accomplish its main mission: to maintain and improve The Colorado Trail.

Their backgrounds and work histories are wide-ranging, but all have one thing in common: a love of the outdoors and, thankfully for us, The Colorado Trail. Here’s a brief look at this year’s crew bosses:

Glenn W. Kepler
You could say that Glenn, of Golden, has been there from the beginning. “My first experience with The Colorado Trail was as a crew member in 1987. That crew at Mount Princeton was notable not only as my first crew experience, but as one of the two crews that September linking together and completing the Trail. I still have the golden spike each crew member received to commemorate the event.” In 1989, he worked on a crew led by Gudy Gaskill. “It marked the beginning of long friendship with one of the most inspiring people I have ever known. In 1997, I was honored when she asked me to co-lead a special invitation-only trek for special dedicated Friends of the Trail.” Over the years he has worked as a Tread Lines mailer, Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, and member of the Board of Directors (2000-2003). “I volunteered to lead my first crew in 1998,” he recalls. “That was at South Platte Crossing, before the Gudy Gaskill Bridge went up. We had to cross the South Platte River hand over hand holding on to a cable stretched across the river. I remember fishing Abe Ohr, my second crew leader, out of the river before he floated down to Waterton Canyon.”

Cindy Johnson
Cindy, of Golden, has been involved with The Colorado Trail Foundation for more than 30 years as a crew participant, crew leader and a volunteer in the office and mailing parties. “I originally became involved after hearing an ad for trail crew participants on a radio station,” she says. “I was single at the time and wanted to spend more time in the mountains. For the past 11 years she has led crews for the CTF, and now she has participated in more than 40. “I only missed a of couple years when I was too pregnant or my kids were too little to leave behind.” She credits former crew leader Stan Ward for her becoming a crew leader. “He encouraged me and mentored me,” she says. “Also, I retired from the telephone company, which allowed me more time. Every year I look forward to the crew season, especially to my women’s crew.” Her passion has been passed on to her children and other family members. “We have many years of great memories.”

Bill Carpenter
Bill, of Boulder, is another veteran volunteer and crew leader. He’s also among the hardest working. Since signing up for his first crew in 2004, he has participated in 51 crews, about 25 of those as crew leader. His involvement began after he retired from the Colorado Judicial Department and a friend asked him if he would be interested in thru-hiking the Trail. At about the same time, he saw an article in the Denver Post about the Trail and the need for volunteers to help maintain it. “I suggested that might be a better way to do something on the Trail rather than hiking it straight through.” Since then, he has worked on as many as four crews a summer. If you join him in August on his crew at Camp Hale, he might tell you about the visit he had from bear while leading a crew near Monarch Pass in 2012. “He ripped the front of my tent off at about 3 in the morning,” he says, “but I didn’t wake up until he got into the mess tent after some jalapeno peppers.”

Paul Smith
The first CTF project that Paul, of Colorado Springs, worked on was in the Lost Creek Wilderness in 2001 on a crew led by Chuck and Linda Lawson, who later encouraged him to become a crew leader. “I was a new-ish crew leader with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Executive Director’s Update

AT OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN JANUARY, I WAS ABLE TO REPORT THAT THE COLORADO TRAIL IS IN GREAT SHAPE—LIKELY THE BEST THAT IT’S BEEN IN YEARS. That’s thanks to our many trail crew leaders and volunteers, adopters and the work of our field operations manager, Brent Adams, who has taken our trail building and maintenance to a whole new level.

Financially, too, The Colorado Trail Foundation is doing well. That’s thanks to our many loyal individual contributors and a few large grantors. Because of them we have ended nearly every year over the past decade in the black, even while adding a full-time field operations manager to our four-person staff, building a half-million-dollar operations center in Poncha Springs, and, most recently, revamping our website.

Still, most years we’re not in the black by a lot, and as a result we approach the end of each year with a bit of financial uncertainty. Dipping into our reserves to cover shortfalls is an option, but it’s not a good long-term strategy. It also runs counter to our goal of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the CT.

So while we continue to pursue grants and other large donations we’re also making a concerted push to increase the number of annual individual donors by 300—from about 1,700 to 2,000. With a mailing list of more than 14,000—and growing—many of whom are Friends of the Trail, we think that’s a reachable goal. Heck, that’s fewer than the number of Trail completers each year.

Ask any of our regular contributors and almost to a person they’ll say they give because The Colorado Trail has had a direct positive impact on their life. If you’re reading this, it probably has enriched your life as well. If you’re already an annual donor, thanks again. If you’ve considered becoming one, we hope you’ll take that step today. The Foundation will not only thank you, but future Trail users will as well.

Happy Trails,

Bill Manning
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.S. There are a number of other ways to help sustain the Trail besides a direct donation. You can find those on the back page of this issue of Tread Lines.

TRAINING SESSIONS RAISE THE BAR ON TRAIL MAINTENANCE

When Brent Adams took over as the CTF’s full-time field operations manager in 2015, he made the training of crew leaders and trail Adopters one of his top priorities. Over the past three years he’s made great strides with both groups.

That effort will continue this season with three one-day trainings for Adopters and those interested in taking on one of the 83 Adopter sections of the Trail or just improve their trail maintenance skills. A fourth one-day session is geared toward crew and squad leaders and those who are considering becoming leaders. Adams and his wife, Anne Englert, an experienced crew leader and trail builder, will lead all of the trainings.

The Adopter training dates are:

- April 27, Upper Junction Creek Trailhead near Durango in Segment 28.
- May 18, Rolling Creek Trailhead at the start of Segment 4.

“We’ll be covering adopter responsibilities and focus on maintenance priorities and will also do some digging in the dirt, focusing on drain construction and maintenance,” Adams says. “Maintaining drains is a fundamental trail maintenance skill and crucial to minimizing erosion of the tread.”

New Adopters are required to attend one of the trainings. Currently all 83 Adopter sections have Adopters, but sections turn over each year and prospective Adopters on the waiting list also must attend one of the sessions if they want to be eligible to adopt. Adopter helpers are welcome, too, as are existing Adopters who want to share their experience or further improve their skills.

The training for crew and squad leaders will be held on May 19 at the Rolling Creek Trailhead in Segment 4. The focus will be on constructing drains and check steps. (Adopters unable to attend any of the Adopter trainings may attend the crew and squad leader training for similar practical training.)

All trainings begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at around 3:00 p.m. Lunch, tools and hard hats will be provided.

Registration for the trainings is required. Contact Adams at brent@coloradotrail.org or (719) 530-1028 to sign up for one of the trainings or to get more information on the CTF Adopter or Trail Crew programs.
at the time,” he says. Three years later, he led his first CTF crew, a weeklong backpack with U.S. Forest Service pack string support. “I can’t look at a package of Hillshire Farms Lit’l Smokies in the grocery store without thinking of Jeff Leisy from the Leadville Ranger District,” he says. Since then he’s done one or two crews a year, “mostly self-supported weeklong backpacks into a wilderness area.” One of these days, Paul says, “I’m going to thru-hike it.”

**Loren Woods**

Loren, of Aurora, started volunteering on CTF trail crews in 2007 and began leading them in 2012. So far, he’s done a combined total of 16 crews. He’s also been an Adopter for about five years and an area coordinator for several more. “I love volunteering and working with and associating with other volunteers,” he says. He started leading crews “in part, because my work and other background gave me skills needed by the Trail. In addition, anything that gets me out in the mountains is special to me.”

**Dave Landers**

Dave, of Fort Collins, has worked on nine CTF crews, including two as a leader. “I got involved as a leader because of discussions with (Field Operations Manager) Brent Adams and other crew leaders, it seemed to be a key limiting factor in how much the CTF was able to accomplish each year was a lack of leaders.” He said he leads backpack crews “because then I don’t have to manage feeding the crew,” joking that “If anyone saw my kitchen, and my complete lack of non-microwave culinary skills, you would understand my reluctance.” He says he has three main objectives with his crews: “First, and most important, is safety. Second, is to have fun. I want people to have a good experience so they’ll come back, and recruit their friends and family. Third, is to get a lot of good work done, which is also part of having fun.”

**Scott Smith and Laura Brieser-Smith**

Famous for their camp cuisine, Scott and Laura, of Westminster, have been crew leaders since 2015. They completed the Trail together in 2010 (Scott had also completed in 1992). After that experience, Laura says, they decided “it was time to give back.” They worked their first crew in 2013 and, as Laura says, “we were hooked.” Subsequently, they were asked if they would consider becoming crew leaders. “We said yes, and the next thing you know we were crew leaders in training,” Scott says. Regarding their experience, Scott says, “It is so impressive how much work the volunteers get accomplished during our time together (and) I am always amazed how a sense of community is created. At the end of the crew, I tend to be both exhausted and leave with a sense of having expanded my family a little bit more.” Laura adds, “Although it’s a lot of work, helping to make sure our crews have the best possible experience is very rewarding. We have many people who have been on several of our crews. Even though we may see each other for only a week out of the year, it’s like a family reunion, and it’s always so nice to keep adding new “family” members each year.”

**Dave Peters and Jodie Petersen**

Dave and Jodie, of Hesperus, have led three CTF crews, two of them on their 16-mile Adopter section, which spans Segment 23. They began their work with the CTF as crew volunteers and since then have worked with Colorado Mountain Expeditions, which runs the CTF Trekking Program, as guides for 14 years. Over those years, they completed the CT. They became Adopters in 2006. “When you can work outdoors in stunning surroundings with super people, how can you go wrong?” they say. “As far as being crew leaders, if we can do it, anyone can do it.”

**Greg Speights**

Greg, of Colorado Springs, is a former employee with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Part of his job was the maintenance and care of the Falcon Trail at the U.S. Air Force Academy, a 1-mile non-motorized single-track, using contractors and volunteers. He started volunteering with the CTF in 2012 after seeing the pin flags for some upcoming trail work in Segment 1. He retired in 2014 and after being an informal crew leader and squad boss for several local trail organizations and the CTF he took the Outdoor Steward Institute crew leader training in 2015 and led his first CTF backpacking crew in 2018. Greg is currently working on completing The Colorado Trail and says when he hikes on the parts he has worked on, he “stops, does a little dance and gets ‘The Grin’ on his face.”

**Doug “Bear” Buttery**

Doug, of Grand Lake, completed a solo thru-hike of the CT in 2014. “Such a wonderful way to celebrate retirement after 30 years with the National Park Service, he says.” Shortly afterward, he met our Field Operations Manager Brent Adams and his wife and co-crew leader, Anne Englert, and participated in several CTF trail crews in 2015 and 2016. “During my early Park Service career, I was a backcountry trail crew leader for seven years in Grand Teton and Olympic national parks. After my experience hiking the CT, my trail maintenance/construction background and a desire to pitch in to help with the task of maintaining 500-plus miles of trail seemed a perfect fit.” In 2017, he led a crew in the Cochetopa Creek area, and last year his crew worked to move the Trail off of a motorized section in the Collegiate West. His crew this summer will continue that work. “I enjoy teaching and living outdoors with others who share an affinity for the wild. Working safely, working smart and laughing a lot creates memories that last forever.”

**Brent Adams and Anne Englert**

Brent and Anne, of Salida, are probably the most familiar of our leaders, not only because Brent is the CTF’s field operations manager, but because the two have been longtime Trail volunteers and crew leaders. In addition to conducting four trainings this season for Adopters and crew leaders, they will also lead three one- and two-day crews. “Our first volunteer experience was with Trails 2000 (then led by current CTF Executive Director Bill Manning) on adopter section 28.2 in 1999,” Brent says. “Our first CTF crew was in 2008, we hike-packed the CT in 2010 – one the hardest and most rewarding things we’ve ever done – and adopted Section 26.1 in 2013.” In 2015, Brent was hired as field operations manager in 2015. They began leading one-day and weekend crews in 2016. “No one else wanted to lead one-day crews, but it gave us more opportunities to meet and interact with CTF volunteers, and more days of digging in the dirt!” he says. “CTF volunteers are the best!”
Crews Continue to ...

One of The Colorado Trail Foundation’s biggest projects in the past few years—a 3.4-mile reroute in Collegiate West Segment 04 near the ghost town of Hancock—could possibly wind up this summer after five years of work.

Altogether, seven week-long CTF crews have spent nearly 5,000 hours on the project, according to Field Operations Manager Brent Adams. Additional crews from the Southwest Conservation Corps and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado have assisted in the effort under the direction and assistance from the U.S. Forest Service’s Salida District. An eighth CTF crew led by Scott Smith and Laura Brieser-Smith is scheduled for July.

The section of new trail will lengthen the Collegiate West route by about 1 mile and will bypass about 1.6 miles of 4-wheel-drive road that is part of the current route, tiring in about a tenth of a mile above the end of the road. The new trail is being constructed at a more sustainable grade than the existing, degraded road section, Adams says, which is part of a continuing effort by the CTF to move more of the existing Trail off old logging and forest roads that still allow motorized use.

This season, the CTF is sending out 15 crews spanning from Segment 2 near Denver to Segment 28 nearing the Trail’s terminus near Durango. A more complete description of the crews and online registration can be found on ColoradoTrail.org. Several crews still have space available and we could sure use your help.

THIS YEAR’S SCHEDULE (CREW NUMBER, WORKSITE, DATES, LEADER OR LEADERS, CREW TYPE, COST, AND WORK DESCRIPTION):

CREW 0119 — JUNCTION CREEK (SEGMENT 28),
April 29-May 3 (5-day), Jodie Petersen and Dave Peters, backpack, $40. Crew will build check ramps and drains on an eroding section of the CT near Durango.

CREW 0219 — RALEIGH PEAK (SEGMENT 2),
May 11-12 (2-day), Brent Adams and Anne Englert, drive-in basecamp, $15. Crew will build a short realignment and drainage structures where the CT crosses the Raleigh Peak Road.

CREW 0319 — LOST CREEK WILDERNESS (SEGMENT 4),
June 1-5 (5-day), Greg Speights, backpack, $40. Crew will construct drains and check steps and de-berm tread to improve drainage on an eroding section of the CT.

CREW 0419 — BUFFALO CREEK (SEGMENT 3),
June 1-8 (8-day), Cindy Johnson, drive-in basecamp, $75. Crew will build a 900-foot realignment to replace an eroded section of trail.

CREW 0519 — TRAMWAY CREEK (SEGMENT 3),
June 8 (1-day), Brent Adams and Anne Englert, drive-in, $15. Crew will construct and maintain drains on this popular section of the CT.

CREW 0619 — TENMILE RANGE (SEGMENT 7),
June 22-23 (2-day), Brent Adams and Anne Englert, drive-in basecamp, $15. Crew will replace an existing bridge and improve other stream crossings at the base of the Tenmile Range near Copper Mountain.

CREW 0719 — (WOMEN-ONLY), UPPER SOUTH MOUNT ELBERT TRAILHEAD (SEGMENT 11),
June 27-30 (4-day), Cindy Johnson, drive-in basecamp, $60. Crew will complete temporary mitigation of a flooded bridge and section of trail resulting from recent beaver dam construction.

CREW 0819 — HANCOCK (SEGMENT CW04),
June 29-July 6 (8-day), Scott Smith and Laura Brieser-Smith, drive-in basecamp, $75. Crew will continue building new trail above the old railroad grade near the ghost town of Hancock to move the CT off of a 4-wheel-drive road.

CREW 0919 — COCHETOPA CREEK (SEGMENT 20),
July 13-19 (7-day), Loren Woods, drive-in basecamp, $40. Crew will construct and maintain drains and clear corridor in the Cochetopa Creek valley in the remote La Garita Wilderness.

CREW 1019 — RAZOR CREEK (SEGMENT 17),
July 20-27 (8-day), Dave Fitzwater, drive-in basecamp, $75. Crew will build check dams and drains to improve eroded sections on one of the quieter portions of the CT/CDT near Razor Creek.

CREW 1119 — ILLINOIS CREEK I (SEGMENT CW02),
July 31-Aug. 4 (5-day), Doug Buttery, backpack, $40. Crew will continue building new trail in the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness to move the Trail off of the motorized Timberline Trail.

CREW 1219 — MOLAS PASS (SEGMENT 24),
Aug. 3-10 (8-day), Glenn Kepler, drive-in basecamp, $75. Crew will construct drains, check steps, and complete other maintenance work on the east side of Molas Pass.

CREW 1319 — ILLINOIS CREEK II (SEGMENT CW02),
Aug. 4-8 (5-day), Dave Landers and Daniel Zier, backpack, $40. See description for Crew 1119.

CREW 1419 — CAMP HALE (SEGMENT 8),
Aug. 17-24 (8-day), Bill Carpenter, drive-in basecamp, $75. Crew will build a replacement bridge below the Cataract Creek waterfall near Camp Hale and do other trail improvement work.

CREW 1519 — SOUTH CLEAR CREEK (SEGMENT CW02),
Aug. 26-31 (6-day), Paul Smith, backpack, $40. Crew will complete trail improvements leading to the log bridge built by the CTF in 2018 and reconstruct deteriorating check steps and improve stream crossings.
Build New Trail, Improve the Old
ANYONE LOOKING FOR PROOF THAT THE COLORADO TRAIL LIVES UP TO ITS BOAST that it’s “mile for mile the most beautiful trail in America” need look no further than The Colorado Trail Foundation’s revamped website (ColoradoTrail.org).

The new site, which went live on Jan. 28, contains some of the most spectacular photographs ever taken of the Trail. But the new look is only part of the story. Nearly all of the content, some dating back to 2004 when the previous site was built, has been updated or revised.

The project, spearheaded by CTF Executive Director Bill Manning, took more than a year of hard work to complete. Expert teammates were enlisted, meetings held, and goals set. Tasks were assigned between consultants, volunteers and staff. Writing and work with photos was labor intensive but, little by little the website began to take shape.

At the outset, the foundation sought to create a site that:
• Had a more modern look that really emphasized the beauty of the Trail;
• Was more readable and informative;
• Was easier to navigate, so users could more quickly find the information they seek;
• Was more mobile friendly (a real drawback with the previous site);
• Enabled online trail crew registration and payment;
• And enhanced the payment system for the CTF’s online store.

“We think we more than accomplished those goals,” Manning says, “although eliminating the inevitable bugs and keeping the site current will be an ongoing effort.” The site’s new architecture will help with that, making it much easier for CTF staff to make revisions quickly.

Among the many enhancements of the new site are a fully searchable Completer’s list dating back to 1988 and a blog featuring the latest news about the Trail. In the near future, it will also include every issue of Tread Lines, dating back to the beginning of the Trail.

Most of the technical work on the new site was done by Gary Sprung, website and database developer, and Angela Bowman, website and WordPress consultant. Blake Welch, a CTF board member and professional graphic designer, contributed artwork and style direction for the site, giving it a more unified look. And another board member, Tim Burroughs, a retired newspaper editor, rewrote or revised most the website content. Office Manager Amy Nelson assisted Manning throughout the process providing key insight, support and testing.

The previous site was built in 2004 by Valerie Miller of Dolomite Designs, who until the redesign served as our volunteer webmaster. “Her contributions over the years are incalculable,” Manning says.

Feedback from visitors to the new site has been overwhelmingly positive and dozens of people have already taken advantage of the new online trail crew registration option.

“We’ve received zero complaints from registrants,” Manning says, “and haven’t seen any glitches of significance either. We’re thrilled at how smoothly things have gone so far.”
6 BUSINESS LESSONS FROM HIKING THE COLORADO TRAIL

A longer version of this piece was posted by Ronen Yaari on his LinkedIn page after he finished a thru-hike of the CT in 2018. Yaari, who lives in the New York City area, is a partner at OpenMoves, a digital company focused on search marketing and automation. More of his pictures and stories can be found on Instagram: @ronen_yaari

This summer I took a five-week sabbatical to walk The Colorado Trail. I wanted to be immersed in the wilds and to challenge my mental and physical capabilities. Interestingly, the same skill set that I honed on my hike can be used to run our marketing business and sometimes vice versa. Here is what I learned out there:

1. EXTREME SELF-RELIANCE

On the trail – especially if you are hiking solo – you must rely on yourself for every detail; starting from equipment and route selection, to water supply management, to food planning and cooking, and your daily goals and schedule. You are the CEO of your trip and the only assistant you might have is a partner back home to send supplies. But perhaps the most demanding solo task is mental health: the art of keeping up motivation and cheer no matter the ups or downs. Looking back at 20 years of running OpenMoves, I think the key ingredient to business longevity, just as it was on the Trail, is emotional stability – the ability to bounce back from setbacks and not be addicted to the highs of short-term success. And maybe the biggest one is not being afraid of entering the canyons of uncertainty.

2. PLANNING

An epic adventure is like a startup: A clear objective, a handful of prioritized metrics, and a defined mission will guide you to success. Step one is setting up a realistic timeline. Thru-hikers are consumed by pre-trip planning: gear, route, food, etc. I had a multi-tab spreadsheet to keep track of it all. I knew what kind of food I was shipping where and when. I also had a guidebook, an abridged Databook, and a Trail app powered by GPS that told me where I was to within 10 feet at any given time, where the water sources were located, and where the best camping spots are. Without daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual planning it’s hard to run an efficient business. That kind of thinking transplanted into my planning and organization skills for the Trail. This was an example where my experience in managing business processes was an asset on the Trail.

3. SIMPLICITY

The art of simplicity was perhaps the greatest takeaway from the Trail experience: one of everything except socks; best if something can be use in multiple ways. For example, my trekking poles became part of the infrastructure for my tent. If it wasn’t used in a week’s time it was sent home. By the end of the trip my pack weighed 15 lbs. without food and fuel and less than 30 lbs. fully loaded. Same goes for shedding inefficient and bloated processes that need streamlining, unnecessary office space or technology. Lean and simple is how best to move forward.

4. ENDURANCE FOR THE LONG RUN

The Colorado Trail Thru-Hike 2018 Facebook page poked a little fun at the Trail for shedding inefficient and bloated processes that need streamlining, unnecessary office space or technology. Lean and simple is how best to move forward.

4. ENDURANCE FOR THE LONG RUN

I’m not a section hiker or a micro-hiker or a camper. I am a thru-hiker. I cover distances and I live on the Trail. I don’t make a comfy camp that resembles a living room and roast marshmallows into the night (though it could be fun). When I survey a landscape, my first impulse is to walk thru it. To absorb what I can and to choose a couple of spots each day to dwell in. I rarely linger. Running a business also requires a long view and having the staying power and discipline for the long run. It’s the day in and day out rigor of putting one step in front of the other that moves you forward both in the office and on the Trail. Short cuts typically don’t work.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Those hikers who embraced the technology available for the Trail had an easier and safer hike. From Trail apps to a satellite texting device that could relay your condition and location to a rescue team, if necessary, to social media updates on Trail conditions were very useful. In the business world using and managing technology is essential to being competitive.

6. FEAR

At the outset, I woke up in a cold sweat in my Denver hotel room thinking that in a couple of days I must abandon all this comfort, shoulder my pack, and walk onto The Colorado Trail alone. I think the alone thing was the main fear. Managing that fear was key to completing the Trail. Learning to grapple with fear is also part of any business owner’s life. Many sleepless nights before big meetings and presentations, travel, cash flow crunches, conflicts with clients and employees, taxes, the list goes on. There is always something to worry about, but the solution to fear is simple; get out of your head, put one foot in front of the other and breathe. It’s in the doing that fear gets alchemized into useful actions both on the Trail and off.

When it’s all said and done, however, none of these journeys, whether outside or in the office, are accomplished alone. I remember somewhere during that first day on the Trail, when I settled into my rhythm and all the hard work was starting to pay off, I felt an overwhelming gratitude for all the people who helped me get there. Yes, in life or in business, there is really no such thing as solo!
Hundreds of Colorado Trail supporters help the Foundation in myriad ways each year. Here are a few of the ways you can step up and lend us a hand.

**DONATE ONLINE:** You can donate online on the ColoradoTrail.org website. Simply click the Donate or Contribute buttons on 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 a Recurring Donation.” 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.

**AMAZON SMILE:** 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 by clicking the “Shop” button 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.

**IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS:** Donate all or a portion of your RMD directly to the CTF (a qualifying charity) and receive an exclusion from taxable income without having to itemize deductions. Consult your tax professional about making a “qualified charitable distribution.” The CTF can provide the transfer account info to you or your investment advisor.

**THANK YOU!**