President’s Corner

by Merle McDonald

Fire and Flood

What good things can one say about our summer of fire and then flood? To start with, no part of The Colorado Trail was burned this summer. We were able to complete 14 of our 18 scheduled work crews. All of our treks wound their way between and around fire, flood, and forest closures. We completed the Copper Mountain reroute. The flood that buried some cars on the Cottonwood Pass road west of Buena Vista did only slight damage to the CT. The new trailhead on North Cottonwood Creek was completed with pit toilets, new signage, and parking for many cars, and yes, even horse trailers. Some hikers (though not many) were even able to hike the whole CT this summer. Now if we could just get some gentle rain and lots of snow.

Continued on page 2

New Books from The Colorado Trail Foundation


The sixth edition has been completely updated and revised, containing all the new reroutes, new GPS enabled maps, Gudy’s tips and expert advice, and new trip logs. It is the official guide to hiking, backpacking, horsepacking and bicycling the spectacular Colorado Trail.

Winding through the heart of the Rockies for 468 miles from Denver to Durango, the CT is one of America’s premier recreational pathways. Whether you are a through-hiker of the entire trail or completing just a segment at a time, you’ll find this the most thorough and accurate guide available, with detailed descriptions of every mile, resupply information for nearby towns, equipment checklists, food and safety considerations, natural history information, must-have trail profiles, and a full-featured index. Gorgeous full-color photographs provide a virtual tour of the trail.
Continued from page 1

high up in the mountains . . .

Innovative Installation

This summer, we replaced a remote bridge in the Buffalo Creek area that was built with untreated logs by one of our crews 10 years ago. The life expectancy of untreated logs in contact with the ground is 7 years in this area, and the logs had completely rotted out. We considered bringing in treated wood so we wouldn’t have to replace the bridge again 7 to 10 years from now, but the logistics were formidable.

We finally decided to use plastic culverts overlain by a plastic stabilizing grid and covered with gravel. The culverts and plastic grid were suitable for carrying in on pack frames. (We now have pack frames in our tool trailers thanks to the grant from The American Hiking Society.) The plastic grid is a relatively new product. Staff at Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs have used it on some of their trails for the last couple of years and are quite happy with it. The grid has held up well on trails that get up to 100 horses per day, so we have decided to try it. The site is located about 7 miles west of Hwy 126 (CT Segment 3) in case you want to check it out. If you go on a nice spring weekend, you will swear that it gets traffic of 100 bicycles per day!

Travel Opportunities

Richard Greve, a regular for many years on our summer volunteer work crews, also spends a lot of time walking or skiing on other trails all over the world. He is currently working on getting together a non-commercial group for a walking holiday in Wales next June. He has been hiking in England many times during the past several years, so he knows his way around over there. If you might be interested in joining him for the hike, give him a call at (609) 267-3598 for more details. He is also putting together a group for a couple of weeks of backcountry skiing in early March in the Canadian Rockies. If interested, contact him at the same phone number or e-mail him at theskiotter@prodigy.net.
Insurance Issues

As I am sure everyone knows by now, the insurance industry took a terrific hit on 9/11. What does that have to do with the CTF, you say? For one our liability insurance took an unbelievable jump in price. For another we had to scramble to even find another insurrer that would cover our treks and education classes this past summer. Another surprise that showed up while we were doing some light reading in our two inch-thick policy was that hostile fire was excluded from our liability policy—the same policy that had just increased 250 percent in cost! What is hostile fire? It is fire that escapes from where it is supposed to be. Though not something we’ve experienced thus far, the risk is certainly something we need covered by our policy. The Foundation needs help with this problem!

CT Video

Beverly Mulholland, a trail crew volunteer and one who has hiked the CT with the assistance of a llama, has spent much of last summer working on a CD video about the CT. The effort has been difficult for her since many of her plans were frustrated or canceled by the rapidly changing fire situation. But she has persisted. This new edition features Gudy’s tips—inside information and expert advice from Gudy Gaskill, the “mother” of the CT. Sidebars feature interesting facts, including side trips up Colorado’s famous 14,000-foot peaks, adding more fun to the CT experience. Record your adventure in the book’s handy triplogs. The full-color maps for each of the 28 segments are now GPS enabled—with hundreds of coordinates for critical locations along the trail—so that you can utilize the most accurate navigational aids available. 288 pages, 6 x 9, 86 color photos, 46 color maps, paperbound, $22.95, ISBN 0-9671466-6-6.


Here’s a new resource for enjoying the spectacular, 468-mile Colorado Trail, patterned after the popular databooks developed for the Appalachian Trail and used by thousands of long-distance hikers. Ideal for the backpacker, bicyclist, or hiker, this essential book fits handily in pocket or pack. Weighing only ounces, it is backpacker friendly yet stuffed with an amazing amount of information, answering all-too-familiar questions any CT through-hiker needs to know: Where’s the next reliable water? Where am I camping tonight? How many miles have I gone? Where can I resupply?

Information is presented in a proven, easy-to-understand system of keywords and symbols. Color-coded mini-maps and elevation profiles for each of the 28 segments of the CT help you stay on trail. The book even has a water-resistant cover. This resource is small, simple, lightweight, durable, and inexpensive—exactly what you want for a trailside companion, and the perfect addition to our popular full-featured guidebook. 48 pages, 4 x 6, 33 color maps, paperbound, $5.95, ISBN 0-9671466-7-4.

Summer Intern

Our summer intern Nate Olive was finally able to complete hiking the CT on August 2 after the Pike National Forest was reopened. Nate is now back at the University of Georgia as a graduate student and teaching assistant in Recreation Ecology. Much of the information he collected will show up in our new and improved databook when it comes out.
Food Donations for 2002

The following companies have generously supported Colorado Trail crews for 2002.

It should be noted that many of these companies have donated food or reduced food costs for Colorado Trail crews for several years. We sincerely appreciate their generosity.

Alamos Distributors, Inc.—John Amerman
     Mi Ranchito Tortilla Chips

Anderson Boneless Beef, Inc.—Paul Anderson, Jr.
     Briskets

King Soopers—Russ Dispense, Pres.
     Merchandise Certificates

Kuner Empson Co.—Damian Harrison
     Corn ‘N Peppers, Peas, Corn

Madhava Honey, Ltd.—Greg Gerbore
     Honey Bears

Nestles Food Co.—Becky McKee
     Hot Chocolate, Candy, Tea, Coffees, Creamer

Peaberry Coffee Ltd.—Julie Jockman
     Fresh Ground Coffee

Reckitt Benckiser, Inc.—Lyn Feloa
     French-Fried Onion Rings and Potato Sticks

Rocky Mountain Foods—Dave Greenhouse
     Trail Mix, Candy

As always, it is a pleasure to work with these companies that help provide for our trail crews. Please do your part and buy their products as much as possible.

Thank you all!

Pat Nagorka, Food Chair
Praise Julian Anderson!

Julian Anderson attended the Rocky Mountain Wildflower classroom series and noticed Dan Wolf’s feet sticking out from under the refrigerator numerous times. The fridge was obviously out again. Julian took matters into his own hands and wrote a check to the CTF cabin fund for $1,000 to purchase a new refrigerator. Hallelujah! No more worrying about food spoiling in a warm container. You are indeed a fairy godfather! All of us healthy mortals who work up there all summer thank you. Next summer will be a charm.

Winter Ski Tour

The dates for the annual winter ski and snowshoe tour have been set for the first 10 days in March. We offer the tour to Friends of The Colorado Trail. We utilize two Hinsdale Haute Route Association Yurts as well as the CTF’s Educational Center southwest of Lake City. More details will be provided in the Holiday Newsletter. We just wanted you to save these dates if you are interested in a long ski tour featuring beautiful country and interesting people. The trip is for winter snow lovers and photographers alike. Participants must be in good physical condition.

In the Bag

Dear Indaco,

Just a quick note to tell you how happy we are with your product. I work for the Colorado Trail Foundation, and we host week long “treks” on the trail. We set up a “potty” for 25 people, and we try to be as environmentally friendly as possible. We used your biodegradable liners, and I can’t tell you how wonderful it was to simply leave them in the ground and walk away from the whole mess knowing it would disintegrate in time. :-)

Thanks again!

Nicki Rosa
[Editors’ Note: Indaco Manufacturing of Scarborough, Ontario, donated a case of these biodegradable liners to The CTF for use in our Trek program this year.]

Submitting Photographs

Please observe the following guidelines when submitting photographs for use in Tread Lines: All images from scanners or digital cameras must have a minimum resolution of 300 dots per inch at the printed size. Images at 72 dots per inch may look good on a website, but they will be fuzzy when printed. JPEG format files are good for outside scenes, but are a poor choice for subjects that have text or sharply delimited lines. TIFF file format is preferred in all cases.

Please include the name of the photographer, a description of the subject, and the date of each photograph, preferrably on the back of the photograph for printed photos and in a text file for digital ones.

Richard Nolde
Future of the Colorado Trail Treks

by George Miller

As of this writing the Trekking Program is still on hold for the Summer of 2003. We are working on several alternatives to keep this very popular program available to all who would like to hike The Colorado Trail with a supported trek. We are still trying to find a leader to set up and administer the program and are open to suggestions from all concerned. We are also talking to professional outfitters who would like to offer this program. Our hope is to continue to keep this program connected to the Foundation in some manner. We will do a mailing about the first of January to let everyone know what will happen this summer with the treks. Even if we have to skip a year to get things organized hopefully our hikers will come back the following year to a new and well organized program. If we decide to use an outfitter we ask for your support to get this changed program off to a good start.

CTF Volunteer Opportunities

1) Trail Crew Registrar(s)

2) Brochure Distribution— carry out our program in place by contacting brochure distributors (Visitors Centers, FS offices, etc.) on a yearly basis, mailing brochures, maintain records. Volunteer can work from home with some visits to CTF office in Golden required.

3) Office and newsletter mailings—3-4 times per year join a great group of volunteers to stuff and label envelopes or newsletters. Evening and/or daytime, Denver and Golden locations.

4) History and archiving— design and carry out a project recording the history of The Colorado Trail. This volunteer or group of volunteers would review and organize existing files, newsletters, photos, etc., interview Gudy Gaskill and long-time volunteers, and then develop a plan for the archiving of information and writing of a history.

5) Office projects—from time to time the office staff has small mailing projects, photo-copying jobs and other tasks for which a well-organized volunteer is needed.

6) Events volunteers—join our group of CTF volunteers who represent The CTF at events such as REI’s Travel Expo, National Trails Day, and The Evergreen Earth Day Fair. Some knowledge of The Colorado Trail is helpful.

7) Insurance Volunteer—This individual might spend a total of 10 hours to get up to speed this year and 5 hours per year thereafter working with our insurance consultant to keep our records in order, update a summary sheet and advise the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of pending changes to policies. No insurance background is necessary, but detail oriented personality would be helpful.

8) Update Media Contacts— volunteer needed to verify name/address/phone/email/contact person, etc. for our office list of media contacts. This project can be done at home by phone; a computer is not necessary.

9) Digital photo archive project—Coordinate and carry out the collecting and indexing of CT photos onto CD ROMS. Knowledge of and access to applicable hardware and software is necessary.

If you would like more information about any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Marian, Suzanne, or Merle at the CTF office: (303) 384-3729 Ext. 113 or ctf@coloradotrail.org.
Colorado Outdoor Recreation
Search and Rescue Cards:
Where does the money go?

For the past several years, the CTF has made available CORSAR cards (formerly called Hiking Certificates) to participants in our Trail Crews, Treks, and Summer Outdoor Workshops. We are pleased to support this statewide program, administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and we think you will find the following article sent to all CORSAR card vendors to be of interest. CORSAR cards can be purchased with cash or credit card from the CTF office.

“Have you ever wondered what happens to the money collected from sales of the CORSAR card? The funds are used to reimburse county sheriffs for costs incurred in search and rescue. For example, we recently received two reimbursement requests, one for a hiker who became stranded on a mountain after falling several hundred feet down a scree field. In an attempt to rescue the hiker, three others became stranded as well. Two of the hikers were eventually hoisted out of the area by helicopter, and the other two were reached by search and rescue volunteers and assisted off the mountain. This rescue cost more than $3,000, but the expenses were reimbursed by the Search and Rescue Fund. The second request was for expenses incurred rescuing a young boy who was on a fishing trip with his father when his horse fell on him, causing serious injury. At the end of the year, after all eligible reimbursement requests have been paid, and if there is still money in the Search and Rescue Fund, grants are awarded for training and equipment for search and rescue volunteers.

Over $2,000,000 has been invested to ensure that Colorado’s SAR teams are some of the best trained and equipped in the country. The money collected is being spent to directly benefit volunteers, and in turn help backcountry enthusiasts.”

Reprinted with permission from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Vendor Bulletin, July 2002.
This was another banner year for the Colorado Trail Foundation Education Center near Lake City! More than 50 students, young and old, attended the many different classes the CTF offered. Despite the hot summer and the kindling dry conditions that existed, the cabin, at 10,800 feet remained relatively cool and pleasant.

We missed the nightly campfires and the evening sightings of deer and snowshoe rabbits, instead relaxing on the new deck until the cool air drove us inside or to our tents for the evening. The first class held was the Rocky Mountain Sampler, and it was the best ever! Julie Davis held us spellbound with the storytelling the first day. We learned a few tricks of the trade. The following day Jerry Grey gave us a full-day lecture on Mountain-Oriented First Aid and told about some of the evacuations he directed as head of the Hinsdale County Search and Rescue. Wednesday was a day for hiking and sightseeing. On Thursday we had Tommy Thompson come up for a day of art review and painting. Everyone received a watercolor pallet, brushes, and art board to do a sketch on and then a watercolor painting. Tommy critiqued the painting and gave us new insight on what to look for while painting a picture. His oils were absolutely beautiful! The last day was spent with Sam Houston, president of the Hinsdale County Historical Society. After a talk on the mining history of the surrounding area, we took a tour of Burrows Park and learned about the mines and towns that had once been there. The tour continued into Lake City, where Sam took us on a walking tour of the old houses in town and final tour of the two cemeteries in Lake City. He pointed out the graves of miners who had perished in avalanches, and the gamblers and merchants and other families that struck it rich.

The next week was a week of watercolor painting. We had both Margaret Barge, from Durango and George Callison from Grand...
Junction as instructors. Although we had a full class, each student received a lot of help due to the fact that the class was split up into two groups. Great weather and a lot of outdoor painting meant that the students produced many pieces of artwork for the Friday night critique and show. This is a very popular class.

The following two weeks continued with the Rocky Mountain Wildflower classroom series. Taught by Dick Mosely from Pagosa Springs, the students found an abundance of flowers, some of which had gone to seed, to identify. Dick is a first-class instructor, and we are very fortunate to have him. The flowers are classified by family, genus, and common name. Want to learn the names of more than 150 flowers? This class is for you. Ernie Werren, an outstanding board member, attended one of the weeks with his wife Barb, and he was amazed to find out what was underfoot.

This year we offered geology again after not having it on the venue for the last five years. Taught by Metro State College professor Pete Varney, the class provided plenty to look at. One day of lecturing, and we were off to American Basin to view the glacier sculpted rocks. Only incidental was the fact that most of the class kept going to the top of Handies at more than 14,000 feet before retreating. A great field day! Another day was spent going up Cooper Lake and viewing the great massive cauldron, part of the Lake City Cauldron. The last day we drove to the top of Slumgullion Pass and then hiked in a couple of miles to the top of the Slumgullion Slide. This was our first rainy day, but we still had a magnificent view of the slides that created Lake San Cristobal.

A great many thanks to Jan and Dan Wolfe, who once again volunteered their summer to help with the cooking, hauling water, keeping the fridge going, doing carpentry work, keeping the water hot, making countless trips to the stream and just being there when someone needed to socialize, or drink a cup of tea, or recover a lost article. We know that they are indispensable, and we couldn’t pursue the classes without their great help. Jan touched all of us with her concerns for everyone. Thanks, Jan and Dan! We loved your napkins and handmade lunch sacks too!
Summary of 2002 Trail Crew Surveys

by Marilyn Eisele

This summary is based on the 96 surveys received; duplicate surveys were not counted. Of the 96 respondents, 50 (52 percent) were first time volunteers. Only new volunteers seem to indicate how they heard about the CT; returning volunteers did not respond to this question. Of the new volunteers 26 percent heard about the CT from a friend, 25 percent heard from a family member, 24 percent learned through the Internet, 12 percent heard through Tread Lines, and 11 percent heard through the American Hiking Society (AHS). The others found out about the trail crews in various ways. Last year’s survey did not indicate the Internet as a major mechanism of finding out about the CT.

The three top most significant factors for choice of crews were dates, crew leader, and location. Top factors for new volunteers were dates and location. Returning volunteers made their choices according to crew leader, dates, and location. However, those three factors were all very close, with access being a distant fourth. Most of the people felt the information they received was adequate. A couple surveys indicated there should be a better description of the type of work to be done. Some first-time volunteers felt there should be better explanations of tool usage, trail-building techniques, and trail construction expectations. This was also a comment last year. One person felt there should have been more time devoted to this on Sunday, especially with new volunteers. Another person felt there should be better safety training concerning hot, dry weather at altitude. Two people felt there was down time because they did not have enough of the right kinds of tools.

One returning volunteer felt the work crews offered opportunities for great socialization and camaraderie. Everyone felt the crew experience met or exceeded their expectations. There were a couple comments concerning the distance from the camp to the work site. These respondents felt the camp was too far from the work site, meaning they spent more time hiking than working.

One comment from the CT office is that the surveys have proved to be a great source of new volunteers for a number of volunteer tasks.

Nearly everyone rated the overall experience as a 4 or 5, with just two 3s. One of the 3s came from one of the people who felt the work site was too far from the campsite.
Camp Hale runs right through the middle of Section 13, which provides an excellent base camp out of which to work. We have used the East Fork Group Campground every year since 1990, when we gathered for a weeklong crew prior to the Adopt-A-Trail program. This group evolved from a combination of CT activities, including work crews and Trail-A-Bration participation, plus efforts by Jim Miller. The official name of the crew is Former FBI/NASA Personnel and Friends. One might con-clude, therefore, that this is not a Colorado-based group—correct! We have had folks from Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, Mississippi, California, and Virginia, as well as many from Colorado, with numbers in excess of 30. We are blessed with a large number of volunteers, half of whom are former FBI members. The NASA contingent has included Bill Todd, who was our leader for a couple of years, as well as Scott Carpenter. Our elder members are in their 70s, and our youngest member is 10 years old. The Minturn District office of the White River National Forest has been extremely cooperative with our group by providing tools and covering the costs of the group campsite. We appreciate them, and they appreciate us. Beth Boyst, Bill Wood, and Steve Bull are three Forest Service employees who have been very helpful.

Our section runs from the crossing of Hwy 24 north of Tennessee Pass, to above tree line at Kokomo Pass. It is approximately nine miles in length. Depending on the snowfall, sometimes we can make it to the Pass, and other times not, as our crew has traditionally worked the end of June. Up until 2002, maintenance has been easy to keep up with, and we have installed two log benches, a bridge across Cataract Creek, a turnpike in Camp Hale, and several signposts. Other tasks we have performed have been refinishing signs, dismantling beaver ponds, cleaning culverts, and the usual clearing and cleaning of water bars. This year we noticed the trail tread begin to narrow as a result of time and possible increased bicycle use.

Camp Hale is a historical area, being the facility where the 10th Mountain Division troops lived and trained during World War II. In 2001 we were not able to go in to do our maintenance due to live munitions having been found in the area. Currently there are interpretive displays in the area in addition to replacement of street signs. The area also provides access to the 10th Mountain Division Hut System in the winter months.

This group is very special and owes its existence to one Jim Miller, who is very dedicated to the CT. In fact, he just completed his 17th consecutive year of trail work and support of the CT.
As I reflect back on the summer of 2002, I find it was much like many summers since 1987 when I worked my first trail crew out of Durango on The Colorado Trail—full of people. While on the trail this summer, I was asked this question by one of my Colorado Trail People, “Is it the trail or the people that make it unique and keep us coming back for more?” While it is true we would not have the trail without the people, we also would not have the people without the trail. It is both. Through volunteer experiences building the trail, we have built a Friend network that is very strong. As the trail was completed, we began to share it with users, and our Friend network became even stronger. The Colorado Trail touches all who let it become a part of them in a very deep and lasting way. Our people make the trail what it is today.

My summer began on June 1, with a National Trails Day event at Waterton Canyon, the Denver terminus of the trail. Friends like Gudy, George, Pat, Charlotte, Susan, Richard, and others served up pancakes and talked up the splendor of the trail. Old friends (Steve and Dona) showed up too, as they often do at these events.

A hike on segment 3 with Friends Liz and Sue just before the Hayman Fire, which consequently closed the Pike National Forest for much of the summer, introduced us to a couple of through-hikers, Jennifer and Michael.

Immediately following the Segment 3 hike I headed to Lake City for the first-ever weeklong crew at the CT Education Center. Gudy kept us all busy the whole week as I added Marilyn, Richard, Dan, Dominique, Cara, Lillian, Dusty, Ben, Larry, Sean, Mary Ann, Jo, Alice, Chris, Lee, and Ray to my growing list of Friends.

At the end of June, I headed to Camp Hale for work on our maintenance Section 13, from Hwy 24 to Kokomo Pass. Our Former FBI/NASA Personnel and Friends group met as we have for the last 10 years to keep up our nine-mile section of trail. It was our best day ever up at Kokomo, even though it was the second in 10 that there was very little snow, as in the past. Les, Jean, John, Cherlyn, Matt, Liz, Dona, Harold, Helen, Dick, Jim, Margarita, Phil, Michael, Bob, Barbara, Jim and Ilene, showed up to keep our section in great shape for another year.

The end of July I headed to my favorite part of the CT in the San Juans, for my first trek sponsored by the CTF. It was all I hoped it would be, and the best part was adding Tina, Judy, Linda, Pattie, Bill, Connie, Kathleen, Harrison, Marshall, Vickie, Baerbel, Jane, Nanci, Anita, Brooks, Regina, Christy, Nicki, Annette, Gwyn, Katherine, Greg, Nate, Island Mama, Chip, Ted and Hank, to my expanding list of Friends. It was great to see that section of trail again, as it had been 14 years since I saw most of it for the first time. Indian Trail Ridge didn’t have the flowers I had remembered, but the views were just as awesome.

The end of August took me back down to the San Juans to help support the last leg of a five-year-long horse ride on the CT. The ride started in 1998 at Waterton Canyon, and was to finish this year in Durango. As it turned out, Mother Nature had her way, and there are two days worth of riding still to do. So I guess The Colorado Trail will bring this group back next summer for the grand finale. This year’s riders, wranglers, and staff (Friends) included, Willard, Bob, Carole, Pat, Doc, Richard, Bryce, Dave, Lee, Dick, Rancel, Glen, Don, Gavin, Amanda, Janie, and my son Michael. Unfortunately two of the riders, Michael Martin Murphey and Lynn, who had been on the first four rides, couldn’t ride this year, but they will get another chance next year. We gathered near Beartown and the Rio Grande as the CTF sponsored their first dinner followed by breakfast the next morning. George Miller was there waiting for us with an outfit previously set up by a work crew. The setting was magnificent, but the drive over Stoney Pass is best left to smaller vehicles, like jeeps. I have the highest admiration for the support crews for the treks who drive all of these harrowing roads to meet trekkers each day as they
stroll along the trail. I know now it is no easy task, and thank you! Our second night at Little Molas Lake was spectacular, and those horses really got a workout their first day coming into camp there. 

**Michael Martin Murphey** visited us in camp that night, and it was great to see him. The fourth day’s ride from near Orphan Butte to Fassbinder Gulch was cut short, as the group rode into a whiteout (snow) on their approach to Indian Trail Ridge. They were turned back, and with a little luck from cell phones and the unofficial CT rescue team, **Ted and Pat La May**, we were notified of the situation, abandoned setting up camp at the top of Junction Creek, and headed back to the hunter’s camp near Orphan Butte, via Dolores, to search for and rescue the riders. Needless to say, as the sun hit the horizon at 7:30 p.m., and we pulled into camp, they were thrilled. The ride was essentially over at that point, but an event put together by **Bill Manning** and **Julie Mesdag** in Durango eased the disappointment for the time being. This was a celebration of five years worth of riding and raising money for the Colorado Trail. Going into the ride, members of the group over the years had contributed more than $44,000 to the CTF. That night the group pledged another $5,600 to the CTF. I guess this group wanted to show us how much they appreciate all the work the volunteers have done to make this trail what it is today. Thank you volunteers and riders/wranglers/staff! Also in attendance at the Durango post-ride celebration were several longtime supporters from Southwest Colorado including **Pat and Frank Amthor** (adopters), **Mayor John Gamble** (nephew of Claire Gamble) and **Suzanne Gamble, Jerry and Dee Dee Brown, Kathe and Bill Hayes** (of the San Juan Mt. Association), **Ted and Pat La May, Bill Manning, LaVerne Nelson, and Biff Stransky** of the Forest Service. Family and friends of the riders gathered with us, for an evening of sharing, recognition, gratitude, awards, and giving. In spite of the drought and fires, the summer was full of Friends, people, and love of The Colorado Trail.
Perhaps the greatest attribute of a natural area experience is the fact that words often do it little justice. As a master’s student at the University of Georgia, proper articulation has become a key element to communicating my thoughts and experiences. But rugged talus slopes know not the meaning of “proper.” They carry a different meaning with every breath of wind, and every angle on sunlight.

I could write the word “washing machine” and one might easily conjure up the image of a white metal box about four feet high with a hinged metal door on top, and several tubes connected to the back, etc. But what if I wrote the word “tree”? Furthermore, what if I said that tree was an aspen? Better yet, what if I said that aspen wavered gently in a heavenly beam of butter, among a verdant village of sophisticated columbines and proud dandelions, bathing in the silent sally of the setting sun? Would a person understand this any more than a household appliance? Maybe not, but they ought to, because the existence and enhancement of our society depends on our relationship with the natural world.

In the following paragraphs, I will share a bit about my adventure this summer on The Colorado Trail. But this humble offering is simply a jumble of words. Renowned alpinist and Sierra Club co-founder John Muir, known as the “father of our national parks,” published more than 300 articles and 10 books describing his backcountry jaunts. Despite all this literary effort, he once wrote, “One day’s exposure to mountains is better than cartloads of books.” With that being said—on to Durango!

From the beginning, it seemed the forces were conspiring against us. With the raging Hayman fire near the Denver terminus, and the Missionary Ridge fire frighteningly close to Durango, the possibility of a complete thru-hike was uncertain.

Our proposed path was cut at both ends. The Pike National Forest was closed when we started on June 22, so we were taken to the Middle Swan River, just outside the closed area, and started our trek. We started at a relatively high elevation. Just days before we drove from Sarah’s home near New Orleans (below sea level), and on our third hiking day, we stood at over 12,200 feet on the Ten Mile Range! Armed with positive attitudes and plenty of drinking water, we survived several headaches and a sinking fatigue until we fully acclimatized after a little more than a week of walking and several rest days.

After getting used to the dry climate and high country, we did more than “survive”—we flourished. Every day was a new realm of wildflowers and startling vistas. It was a dream. As the constrictions of society unwound day after day, we found time to focus on more important things. Gone was the overbearing presence of tedious schedules, ringing phones, humming computers, blaring commercials, and the other social balls-and-chains which Muir described as the “galling harness of civilization.” Instead of waking to a buzzing alarm clock, it was sunlight and songbirds. Instead of mentally revisiting a task list, I dwelled on my family. Instead of facing automobile traffic and deadlines, I faced myself.

Beyond the transcendence of society, we even worked ahead of time to transcend our gear. Of course, we didn’t do that completely, but we came closer than most backpackers. By sharing common gear like our tarp under which we slept, a homemade synthetic-filled sleeping bag, a homemade water filter, a homemade stove, and limiting superfluous luxury items, our packs were quite light: The constant weight (or “base” weight, meaning without the fluctuating weight of food or water) of mine was 11.0 lbs., and Sarah’s was feathery 8.8 lbs. Some people called us “minimalists,” but we couldn’t think of anything else we needed. We even each carried an umbrella, several small identification books (thanks to Charlotte), and I carried questionnaires and a small GPS unit for the collection of data for the CTF. In the past I would carry a pile of extra gear that I valued so because it insulated me from
nature. Since then, I’ve learned to embrace nature—to sit on the ground and use a low-powered flashlight for example—and its gifts to me have increased tenfold. It is true that our possessions actually possess us. If you don’t believe me, try hiking to Durango with your bowling ball. You will only be free from its weight when you let it go. **Art Buchwald** once said, “The best things in life aren’t things.” He must have been a hiker.

Along the way, Sarah and I collected data for the CTF. We gave questionnaires to people whom we passed on the trail. The purpose of these questionnaires was to give the CTF an idea of whom a thru-hiker might see during his or her walk. This information can help guide the direction of future guidebook interests. For example, a hiker might be interested to know where heavy bicycle use occurs in order to stay alert for fast-moving bikers, or even avoid that section altogether. Unfortunately, we were not able to give many questionnaires to bikers, because they rarely stopped when we passed them. However, we would note their presence to add to the data set. The data gathered from the questionnaires will be used in many other ways to meet the needs of different populations and user groups.

Next, we used a handheld GPS unit to mark the locations of reliable water sources and durable campsites. We did this in conjunction with the CTF CDROM based printed maps. We found many previously unmarked water sources and some amazing campsites! These will be added in future editions of the CTF Official Guidebook and Databook. Using current scientific research from the emerging field of Recreation Ecology as a basis, I selected campsites that ought to withstand years of consistent use.

When we arrived at Silverton, we were told that the San Juan National Forest was closed to overnight use. I also received more bad news—there was a death in my family. My stepfather’s brother, **Mark Matthews**, whom I had met only several times, had gone to heaven quite unexpectedly. This crushed my family, and I expected soon to be with them. But Mark also had a love for nature. He had requested for his ashes to be released into the windy chasm of the Grand Canyon. My family’s wishes were clear. I was to go on, and in the spirit of Mark, finish my fellowship with the mountains. Suddenly, I was notified by **Merle McDonald**, CTF president, that a CTF supported trekker group was permitted through the forest under special permit, and that we could tag along! We did just that, all the way to Durango, and by then the Pike National Forest had just reopened. We made our way by car back to Denver, and finally completed the trail back to the Middle Swan. Not only were we able to hike the entire trail, but we completed the data set for the CTF.

Somehow, the forces that seemed at odds with us in the beginning came together and showed us the way. We learned more than just data—we learned about patience, perseverance, our families, and most of all—ourselves.

I like to do this kind of work, even if I’m not paid to do it. It gives others the chance to experience the freedom of thought and travel so easily afforded in our natural areas. By being aware of our impacts, following Leave No Trace guidelines (www.LNT.org), and volunteering a bit of time, we can become stewards of our land while protecting these opportunities for our grandchildren and for their descendants. As cities and mass developments continue to close in on these areas, our actions now are growing more and more important. This land is for everyone. I leave you with this:

---

*Go to the mountains,*

receive the gifts that are yours alone
sneak into a dark wood,
visit your ancestors as you rest among old spirits
find your place along the singing stream,
listen to the wisdom flowing through the hills of old Colorado.

---

Nate Olive, known in hiking circles as “Tha Wookie”, is a Master’s student in Recreation Ecology at the University of Georgia. He has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail and plans to hike the Pacific Crest Trail with his partner **Sarah Janes** in 2003. Check out his journal with pictures at www.trailjournals.com/wookie.
CTF Library Display Volunteer

by Jo Anne Mercer

Married 36 years to Bob Mercer [don’t make me stuffy, this is NOT a regulatory hearing!]. We met during our undergraduate school at, today, Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh and married four years later. We now have three adult children (1 daughter, 2 sons). We have lived in Boulder for more than 16 years.

Career in Molecular Biology: Began at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Medicine, Biophysics Department; completed at Colorado University’s Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Department to make time for other aspects of life.

Volunteer over the years: E.M.T. and first woman line officer for a Volunteer N.J. First Aid Squad, Cub Scout Den Mother, Tutor for the Learning to Read Program, Conversation Partner/Friendship Family for Economics Institute international students, Manager of Concession Stands (Fund raiser for Fairview H.S. Marching Knights), numerous teaching and leadership positions in church.

Completed the Colorado Trail August 22, 2002, requiring four seasons altogether because other demands on my time allowed only a part-time effort. I hiked most of the trail, including one of the C.T. Treks, and biked the Colorado Trail Bicycle Alternative Routes for the rest. I have no doubt that I will soon enjoy hiking those few segments which I had biked instead. I received enormous support from my husband, Bob, in my effort to complete The Colorado Trail. From the very start the had full confidence in my doing so, and provided a lot of drop-off and pick-up assistance for various segments.

The Colorado Trail is truly a labor of love by many people devoting endless hours over the years, giving fellow citizens the opportunity to enjoy the exhilaration of wilderness in our own backyard. There are the rewards of meeting wonderful people along the way; and of learning more about the geography, geology and history of our state. I love hiking, and would not miss the blessings of drinking in a vista, or a fabulous starry night sky or the fragrance of evergreens warmed in the sunshine, or the surprise of an unexpected greeting of a wildflower. Having been the recipient of blessings from the Colorado Trail Foundation’s efforts, how could I not want to help the effort continue!

Jo Anne Mercer
Story of a CTF Volunteer

by Cheryl Annett

When I read that The Colorado Trail Foundation needed a volunteer to display information in the public libraries, I knew I could do the job. Having retired one year ago from 31 years as a public school teacher in California, Saudi Arabia, and Colorado, I shine at bulletin boards. The CTF displays are fun. A long time ago, I spent a week building The Colorado Trail and have enjoyed hiking the trail on two different weeks with the Foundation.

My husband and I are Colorado natives who have hiked and climbed most of our lives. I have trekked through Patagonia in 2001, climbed Kilimanjaro in Africa in 2000, trekked the Machu Picchu or Inca Trail in 1998, climbed Villarica Volcano in Chili in 1997, finished climbing the Colorado 14ers in 1996, and did reforestation work in the rain forest of Ecuador in 1993 followed by a trip to the Galapagos Islands. I am a graduate of the Lakewood Citizens Police Academy in 1990. My undergraduate degree is from CU, Boulder, and my M.A. is from Lesley College, Boston, Massachusetts. I currently lead hikes for the Colorado Mountain Club and have volunteered for more than 10 years as a telephone scheduler to plan the new season’s hiking schedule of A and B hikes for CMC.

In the middle school where I taught, nature study was included in our curriculum. My goals were to help younger generations appreciate, care for, and preserve the natural world, and become aware of our planet’s dwindling resources. Because of my love of travel and respect for diverse cultures, I tried to engage and enrich my students’ lives with my experiences in the world. To mention just a few of our efforts, my students and I adopted the street front of our school for clean up. My students worked and raised money to purchase 10 acres in Ecuador through Rain Forest International. For two years, my students and I participated in the Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Adopt-a-Whale Program. For many years, my students exchanged letters with other teens in foreign schools. Over the years, I have taken gifted and not-so-gifted students on hikes and included journal writing, poetry writing, and watercolors and made available other expressions of creativity while we were in this natural setting. I am an avid reader and take pleasure in gardening and photography. I am currently studying drawing and watercolor. Thank you, CTF, for adding one more fun experience to my life.
A full crew showed up on Saturday afternoon to put in hard days of work for the next five days. Sunday was a long day, with a great many projects getting started. Some members elected to work on a trail crew, others measured and dug up huge rocks for the beginning of a new tent platform; then there was the wood-gathering crew, cleaning up the forest from the remains of the avalanche that came down eight years ago. Others hauled logs that had been piled in the woods and cut and stacked the wood into a double row, as high as your head and half the length of a soccer field, providing a great windbreak and enough wood to last for years. Huge rocks had to be carried up to line the driveway bank, and the new deck pillars had to be encased in rock. During the course of the week, new steps were built leading onto the platform; steps were also rebuilt from the driveway to the kitchen door and from the driveway to the patio area. The group installed the patio canvas cover, setup the two shower stalls, scraped and revarnished posts, renewed some tent pads, and cleaned up the area. There was time to climb Handies (and for many a first 14er), time for a drive up to Cinnamon Pass, and visit Lake City.

What a crew, and everyone worked SO hard. An added plus was that we were able to have hot lunches because of our proximity to the cabin and the kitchen facilities. The overachievers attending were Marilyn Eisele (jack-of-all-trades), Richard Eisele (master platform builder), Chris Grant (stone mason), Daniel Hershberger (truck drive/woodman), Dominique Hershberger (chief woodman), Cara Kropp (Dominique’s sidekick), Ben Loveless (earth mover), Lilian Lin (wood stacker), Dusty Little (trail and step builder), Larry Mack (top honcho with the chain saw), Sean McDermott (engineer), Julie Mesdag (trail and rock wall builder), Mary Newell (load and wood carrier), Jo Sage (trail and step builder), Alice Sharp (elder extraordinary), Lee Van Ramhorst (dedicated trail builder), Ray Wornell (“tough as nails” worker) and leader Gudy Gaskill (enthusiastic, but master of none). Hats off to a great crew!
“Dam this and dam that!” At least that’s what the beavers seemed to be saying at the Trail’s Cree Creek crossing north of U.S. 50. And they did! Dammed it good! But they didn’t reckon with the Marshall Pass crew.

Twenty-two volunteers pulled into the campsite at historic Marshall Pass on Saturday afternoon, June 22, with the assignment to improve the Trail between the Pass and the south end of the San Isabel National Forest where the Trail reaches Windy Peak. We did all of that and much more.

First we organized into two 10-person teams—the Blue Team guided by Roger Gomas, and the Green Team, headed by Ken Swierenga. The Blue Team began the week slashing in and mulching a full mile of old trail just south of the Pass, while the Green team tackled improvements on three miles of trail down to the junction with FS 243D. On Tuesday, Roger’s team moved on south to the end of the Forest to recondition a half-mile of trail badly damaged by off-road vehicles. By Tuesday night, the Marshall Pass crew had accomplished its mission.

On the Wednesday “day off,” Rolly Rogers went up to survey the south end of his adopted section that ends at US 50. He was dismayed and discouraged to find that at Cree Creek, beavers had raised their dam again, flooded the Trail, and created an impenetrable barrier of large aspen trees. The Colorado Trail was totally blocked. When Rolly reported this at our non-fire campfire, it was agreed that the Green Team would go to Cree Creek on Thursday to construct a bypass and reopen the Trail. It took two days, but we did it.

Ken’s group cut downed trees and built a new trail in front of the beaver dam. They constructed two log bridges across Cree Creek and made the Trail passable once more.

On those same two days, Roger’s team headed north from Marshall Pass. They slogged along cutting drains, building water bars, removing limbs overhead, removing berm and rocks, and generally improving the trail. This section was not in bad shape, but it is used heavily by bikers riding south from Monarch Pass on the CT and Continental Divide Trail (CDT). The Blue Team worked north 3.8 miles on Thursday, all the way up to junction with the CDT and Monarch Pass Trail. On Friday they drove around to the Fooses Creek Trailhead and worked south almost two miles.

Although we didn’t know from day to day if the Forest would be closed because of high fire danger that would force us to evacuate, it was a good week. Brief rain/hail showers on two afternoons didn’t interrupt our work or cause problems.

The encampment functioned smoothly because everyone willingly helped out. Marylin Greensieen managed the kitchen with extra help from Mark Seklemian and Bev Gherardini. Roger Gomas and Grady Monk cooked terrific breakfasts each morning with indented help from members of their two clans—Ryan Gomas, Mitch Brown, Jim Monk, Ryan Monk and Shawn Monk. Jim, Shawn, and Ryan Monk also teamed up to do the daily kitchen dishes.

There were some good times in our evening camps as we circled around the no-fire campfire (a pile of rocks). We celebrated Bev Gherardini’s birthday with cake and trimmings. Ryan Zoeteway entertained a couple of times with his drum, and Jim Monk serenaded with his guitar.

Other helping hands were provided by Dewey Hill, Bill and daughter Mary Maltby, Paul and Sandy Njaa, Bob Seklemian, Don VanWyke and Dale Zoeteway.

The Marshall Pass Crew was truly a veteran team. With completion of this crew, the 22 volunteers have been members of CT trail crews 171 times. Through the years Roger, Grady, and Rolly together have worked on crews 66 times, and Rolly volunteered on two more crews later in the summer. Clearly, the volunteers on the 2002 Marshall Pass crew were not only good workers and good campers but also bona fide “Friends of The Colorado Trail.”
Working in the North Cottonwood Creek area about seven miles west of Buena Vista, Crew 0602 was unique by many standards. One of the most unique aspects of this year’s trail crew was that it was a family affair. Five different parents brought their children with them to work on the trail. The parents and their children were Jim Ballantyne and his daughter, Cory; Larry Ballantyne (Jim’s brother) and his son Jeff; Tom Brooksher and two sons, Kyle and Andy; Cindy Johnson and her daughter Sarah; and Linda Johnson (no relation to Cindy) and her daughter Karin. Other families represented by multiple members were Rolly Rogers and his son-in-law, Bob Miner, Cindy Johnson and her nephew Brian Stevens; and Stan Ward, our fearless leader, and his brother-in-law Ernie Svetec.

Another unique aspect was that the crew had a “princess” serving as cook tent supervisor. “Princess” Sue Palmer joined the crew for the fourth year to gather the food, organize the cook tent and supervise the volunteers who signed up to cook meals. Unfortunately, crew 0602 discovered that raccoons have little respect for royalty. Princess Sue’s kitchen experienced a full-out nighttime raccoon assault. The pesky varments rifled the coolers and plastic food bins, and made off with a 10-pound brisket and a half-gallon container of sour cream. It turns out that raccoons are much fonder of brisket than sour cream. The sour cream turned up unharmed several hundred yards from the campsite, but the brisket was never seen again.

Crew 0602 also had an Entertainment Czar, Paul Berteau, who organized our evening entertainments. Without a fire to sit around each night, we were treated to memorable evenings of board games, a get-acquainted round of “Two Truths and a Lie,” a joke night, an awards night, and a talent show.

The crew was blessed by tremendous cooperation and support from the Forest Service. This was a drive-in camp, and the Forest Service reserved our site during the busy Fourth of July weekend. They also provided a trailer tank of fresh water and three porta-potties. It was luxurious and a very restful place after a day on the trail.

The crew was also unique because of its size. A total of 29 people were a part of this trail crew. The youngest volunteer was Sarah Johnson, who at age 11 and a half was spending her fifth year on the trail. Our most experienced volunteer Rolly, was on his 26 trail crew. Six members were volunteering for the first time: Cory Ballantyne, Dan Russell, Rich Scott, Karin Johnson, Rick Lopez and Bob Miner.

Brian and Ernie came to work all the way from North Carolina and Pennsylvania, respectively. Stan Barnes was the closest volunteer coming in from nearby Nathrop on a daily basis. Several people spent part of the week with us. Dan and Rich worked the first two days and left for a raft trip in Utah. Jeff Ballantyne, Bob Hunter, Andy Brooksher and Laura Ap.
Farmer joined the group after the first day.

Eight through-trekkers in two groups joined us for dinner and spent the night on two separate evenings. We shared food and information about the trail. Ruth van de Witt, one of the first to hike the entire trail in one outing, was especially supportive to the new breed of hikers. The hikers joined us for dinner and the evening entertainment.

Memorable events included the awards night and the talent show. Jerry Anderson was given an award for having a tent that was larger than his car. Rolly was recognized for outstanding service, and Bob, for following in Rolly’s footsteps. Cathy Hoch was given an alarm clock so that she could stay up past 7:30 p.m. to join the festivities. Kathy Jones received Off insect repellent from Cory to encourage her to return to crew work. Kyle got a “Don’t Yell At Me I’m A Volunteer” pin and Skittles from Ruth. Rick received the coveted

A rising star brings opera to camp.

Suma and the Shieks

Rolly Rogers
$100,000 Water Bar Award from Tom. Paul received a clever limerick and a challenge to write a song (which, of course, he did in hysterical fashion) from Cathy. Bob Hunter bestowed the Master Lopper Award on Ernie, including a scale model of loppers, which were manufactured in China (in spite of some difficulty in translation), and which had to be back in the kitchen by breakfast. And Stan received a beautiful stained-glass mountain scene created by Sue and a card from the crew.

The talent show included memorable acts such as Suma and the Sheiks (Sue, Dan and Rich) doing a passable dance of the veil (actually a window curtain purchased in a thrift shop in Buena Vista); hacky-sack skills by Jeff; a chair dance by Kyle; history stories of our camping area by Rolly; a “Crew 2 Review” by Tom’s mini-crew who converted West Side Story songs into trail-relevant lyrics such as “Pulaski, I’ve just met a tool named, Pulaski...”; a soliloquy from One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest from Andy, and an Italian aria by Beth, one of the though-trekkers. Beth won the top prize because she obviously had real talent.

The work on the trail was typically difficult and rewarding. The trail had been originally constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and it showed the 70 years of erosion. Stan Ward divided the crew into four work crews, each with a leader, and assigned each a portion of the trail for the four-day work cycle.

Bob Hunter’s work crew tackled the rocky first leg of the section, a steep .3 mile portion from the trailhead to the first switchback.

Tom’s work crew handled the second .2 mile section, which featured trail creep (no, not Dan), lots of rocks, berm overrun by scrub oak, abundant sunshine, and two switchbacks—one which was in good shape and one which had to be rebuilt. To rebuild the lower switchback on a very steep slope, masterbuilder Jim was called in to plan and execute the construction. He had to build a large, rock retaining wall, dig out the turn and landing area, build a French drain below, and install two log-supported retaining walls to make a suitable foundation for the tread entering and exiting the switchback.

Stan Barnes led the third crew, which renovated an eclectic portion of the trail featuring lots of rocks and plenty of water erosion problems. The final work crew was led by Larry “give me the farthest, hardest work” Ballantyne. Always one to accommodate, Stan Ward sent Larry’s crew nearly two miles up from the trailhead. Larry reciprocated by going even farther to start his crew’s work. Luckily for Larry he had a very compliant crew and only occasionally was the word “mutiny” mouthed. This crew also had a water problem that required a French drain, and they, too, called Jim in to lead the construction. A ton and a half of rocks later (most moved by Cindy), Larry’s crew had a French drain as beautiful as any French painting (at least in the eyes of Crew 0602).

The work was hot and dusty (there is no doubt that Colorado is in a major drought), but it was all worthwhile as day hikers and through-trekkers would pass the crew and thank us for making their hike and the trail so much better.

It was a week of hard work, fun times, and great people.
We’re looking forward to 2003!

---

Thanks from New Zealand

It is not very often that you meet a group of people with whom you can immediately feel at home, feel like sharing with and learning from. We would like to thank you all sincerely for giving us such an opportunity. The kindness shown to us was amazing. And thank you for working so hard to give us The Colorado Tail. You’ve done a beautiful job.

PS: Thank you for the food, cheeses, wine, and talent show!

So gay is this to be outside among the forest’s guests to be fulfilled and so wholly loved makes one feel blessed and these friends of ours who share this night if never seen again would never be forgotten but remembered with a grin.

Sarah, Beth, Gail, Laura, and Josh from New Zealand
We recently participated in our first Colorado Trail Foundation volunteer work crew, and would like to share with others what a great experience it was. While a week of trail work may not be everyone’s idea of a “vacation,” it certainly has the potential!

Our crew worked under the leadership of Bill Bloomquist near Carson Saddle, just southwest of Lake City on the Continental Divide. The camp and work areas were between 11,500 and 13,000 feet, mostly above tree line. We chose this work site because it was a segment of the CT we had never seen, and it was beautiful.

As active members and frequent trail workers in Trails 2000, a Durango-area trails group, we looked forward to the workweek and our expectations were exceeded in every aspect. We were surprised, as 40-somethings, to be the youngest crew members. The average age was 50+ years, and one man celebrated his 80th birthday. With participants from all over the country, many interesting life and travel experiences were shared. The camaraderie and laughter during meal times will long be remembered. Meals themselves, of course, were great—we ate very well for only $40 for the week!

Ah, yes, the work you may ask . . . . We worked hard on the trail for four full days but also enjoyed the two free days. Some people hiked, mountain-biked or explored historic mine sites, while others enjoyed a rest. Our crew primarily did erosion control, trail widening, and rehab, and it was gratifying to see the results and be thanked by passing trail users.

Being a part of the work crew gave us a new appreciation of the value of The Colorado Trail. We enjoyed it so much we hope to do it again for future “vacations” and would highly recommend it to others.
Segment 24 of The Colorado Trail penetrates some of Colorado’s most spectacular scenery. This was clearly evident as our crew of 12 made its way from Silverton, up Cunningham Gulch, and over Stoney Pass. Awe-inspiring views greeted us at every turn of the rough road, and every hill brought us nearer to the Continental Divide, where we were to work. After crossing the Rio Grande, near its headwaters, we set up camp two miles below deserted Beartown, which served as the base for extensive mining activity in the nineteenth century.

Beverly Mulholland, who is producing a promotional video for The Colorado Trail Foundation, wanted shots of setting up a camp. She got them as the crew expeditiously set up kitchen, community tents, and toilet and shower stalls in a large meadow frequented by a herd of cattle.

We had a good mix of rookies and grizzled veteran trail builders. Crew members came from Alabama, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, and Washington, and there were three of us from Colorado. Three members of the crew had previously hiked The Colorado Trail in its entirety and wanted to work hard to help others enjoy the beauty of The Colorado Trail, but we didn’t know we’d have to work so hard.

Bill Bloomquist, our leader, had tried to gain the Forest Service’s help in establishing a pack camp near the work site. Wildfires precluded assistance from the Forest Service, so we had to go it alone. Each workday involved a four-wheel drive ride of two miles, a hike of three miles with a 1,400-foot elevation gain, and a one-mile, 750 foot descent to the section where we were to work.

Mark Santa-Maria, Bridget Reilly and Rhiannon Mercer negotiated the jeep road for two additional miles to Kite Lake, which made their hike a bit shorter but just as strenuous. Steve Espinoza and Weldon Hyde helped divert water from steep sections of trail with numerous water bars. Pam Ashley and Bob Cather became experts at removing loose rocks and scree from the trail with the Colorado Trail Foundation’s newly acquired McLeods. Allen Kallenbach and John Marksbury wielded rock bars and pick mattocks to remove large rocks from the trail. At 2:30 each afternoon, we began the long trek back to our camp for showers and an always delicious and abundant dinner. Carole and Richard Broyles, even after a hard day of hiking (they had become experts, having completed both the Appalachian Trail and The Colorado Trail) and trail work, seemed to find the energy to prepare dinner. John was proud of his new Toyota truck. So were two juvenile marmots that stowed away in the engine compartment while we did trail work. They remained undiscovered until we were eating dinner. Not
responding to eviction notices of walking sticks and splashing water, John closed the hood while listening to horror stories of eaten wire insulation and radiator hoses. Surely, he thought, they would vacate by morning. But the marmots thought otherwise. We assume they enjoyed the ride back to their territory the next morning where they vacated the truck by day’s end.

On Wednesday, some of the crew had enough energy to again cross the Divide to beautiful Eldorado Lake. Others stayed in camp and received a visit from three sisters who been six weeks hiking the trail. They were hiking in tandem with two cousins, one of whom was from New Zealand. We shared dinner with the hikers, who related many of their trail experiences.

There were intermittent rain showers throughout the week but they didn’t cause delays in trail work. For Friday’s lunch, we hiked to a beautiful lake, which would have been our base camp. It was a sunny day, perfect for spending our last afternoon doing detail work while ascending 28 switchbacks that led us to the pass where we glanced back for a last time at the beautiful Elk Creek Valley framed by the Grenadier Range and the Needle Mountains, highlighted with a backdrop of Grizzly Peak, Twin Sisters, and Rolling Mountain.

On Saturday morning the 12 of us, Certificates of Appreciation from the Foundation in hand, packed up and headed back to Silverton, where we had begun the previous week. The views were just as beautiful but with this difference: We now possessed a sense of satisfaction that we had contributed to making The Colorado Trail a more beautiful and enjoyable experience for those who are fortunate enough to hike it.
Many hikers and trail workers think that The Colorado Trail traverses its most beautiful area as it crosses the Continental Divide at the headwaters of the Rio Grande and Elk Creek. When the CTF offered a crew at Elk Creek, all the spots were immediately filled with eager volunteers—in fact, too many volunteers to fit within the Forest Service’s limit of 15 people in a single group in the Weminuche Wilderness. This crew was added to our summer’s work after the schedule was published. We were able to accommodate more trail workers and thus to accomplish a lot of work in this scenic but challenging area.

We had a few experienced trail workers and a lot of people who learned very fast. Ages ranged from 18 to 68. The weather was little short of amazing for the San Juan Range: it did not rain at all! Dallas Peterson wanted to test his new rain gear, but he never had the chance. Some generous folks offered to throw buckets of water at him, but he declined.

Our workdays started early with a two-mile drive from camp to the Beartown trailhead. Then we hiked three miles in the next one and a half hours up to the Continental Divide. This part also included herding cattle and sheep. The view from the Divide was beautiful every day. Views included San Luis Peak in the east, Grizzly Peak to the west, Sheep Mountain in the north, and Peak One to the south. Spectacular! Then we descended into the Elk Creek drainage to our work sites. By the time we got to work, it was time for a break.

Among our younger crew were students Ashley Fetterman and Luke Awtry. Luke entertained himself around camp reading a book on string theory. Apparently it has to do with exotic physics and not cat’s cradles. Christa Vaughn, a student from Western State in Gunnison, taught us that group conversations have pauses every seven minutes on average and that those gaps should be plugged with thoughts of George Washington or purple pennies. I am still trying to figure out why. Jed Levin, a student in California showed his versatility by being our premier rock bar wielder and only theoretical mathematician. Barney Barnett, a mapmaker from Montrose, not only worked hard on the trail but was of immense assistance in transporting not only people, but also drinking water and trash. Bob Stulac came down from Boulder to wield a Pulaski. Eric Jolley and Nathan Briley quickly developed a knack for finding little rocks sticking out of the tread that had roots that went down a couple of feet. Fortunately they also were very good at prying them out and then
throwing them away. They only bent one pick-mattock during the week.

**Kelly Luck** took advantage of being a vagabond to learn how to maintain trail. She was soon removing and discarding rocks nearly as big as she is. **Jill Majerus** and her friend **Yan Labrecque** (who came from Quebec City) were also first-time and very effective trail maintainers. Jill is interested in eco-tourism and now has some hands-on experience at trail development with simple tools.

We were fortunate to have **Weldon Hyde** work on both this crew and the one immediately preceding it. He was reminded every day that he was not in Kansas anymore.

After we finished our trail maintenance for the day, we had to climb the famous 28 switchbacks up to the Divide and then descend to the trailhead. A short drive took us back to camp and solar showers that were hot—very hot—every day. The dinner crew then made good and plentiful dinner for us aided greatly by Weldon’s knowing where everything was stashed. Jill and Weldon had organized the food at the beginning of the week, and that made life for the cooks almost easy.

Barney’s truck was invaded by a juvenile marmot who apparently climbed into the engine compartment at the trailhead and took a joyride back to our camp. We named her **Mariah**. Our food-waste disposal pit was invaded by a cow who thought that our discarded cabbage leaves were quite a treat. It was easier to get rid of the cow.

At the end of the week, we had an unscheduled volunteer show up for work. We found out later that his name is **Ba-Ba** and that he really already had a job. Ba-Ba is a big, white, very friendly sheep-herding dog. Well, the shepherds think that is his job, but Ba-Ba seemed to like people better than sheep and hung out with the crew. Our conversations probably did not make more sense than the sheep’s, but we have bigger vocabularies.

Despite the short amount of time working on the trail and the smallish crew, we fixed up almost a half-mile of trail. It required moving a lot of rocks. We built two dozen water bars, and several stone steps, performed some minor rerouting, widened switchbacks, and generally cleaned up some pretty messy tread. The labor was difficult, but the excellent results made us feel that it was effort well spent.

Evenings found us sitting around watching the stars and satellites come out. The satellites went to Twoleyville; the stars did not. We saw some shooting stars, played some games, and enjoyed the company of good people in one of the most beautiful places in the world.
We were saddened by the news that old-timer CTFer Bob Ballou died suddenly on November 4. Bob was very active on The Colorado Trail—years ago he was a hard-working member of trail crews; but after undergoing extensive back surgery, he couldn’t do that anymore. Instead, because he loved the out-of-doors and believed in The Colorado Trail, he volunteered to help out as a cook’s helper and all-around fixer-upper at the campsites. And when it came to setting up and taking down camp, Bob knew the right procedure! Never far from his overall pocket were his trusty pliers, which he used for a multitude of chores around camp.

Phil and Mae Smith were perhaps the most familiar with Bob because he worked for 8 to 10 years on crews that Phil led and for which Mae cooked. He will be remembered for his friendliness, his expertise, and the fact that he was just a great guy. Bob loved people and especially liked being on the crews made up of high-schoolers that Phil led each year.

Bob received a pacemaker this past summer and was getting along quite well. But his doctor advised him to not go into the higher elevations this summer. This fall, he felt well enough to do his annual elk hunting, but died while on that trip in Saguache County.

Bob was born on January 4, 1930 in Manzanola, Colorado, and died November 4, 2002—doing what he loved: being outdoors and hunting deer and elk each season. A memorial service was held on Friday, November 8, in Pueblo where Bob and his family have resided for many years.
My husband, Tom Gamrath, loved hiking in the mountains and especially loved The Colorado Trail. He hoped to hike the whole trail to Durango. He did finish all of it from Denver to Marshall Pass, about 272 miles. He did this in several hikes from August of 1989 to September of 1995. Friends loved to hike with him, and through the years several different friends accompanied him, some several times. I went on all that were not very strenuous. A friend, Margot Hubbell, went on just about all hikes with him.

Tom would spend lots of time deciding how to hike each of the legs of the trail and how to get there. We would always take two cars and first go with both to the end of the leg. Everyone would get in one car, which would take us to the beginning of the leg.

Then we would go back and get the first car after the hike.

Tom had a water bottle, which he painted to camouflage it. He named it the CT bottle for “Colorado Trail.” This bottle never came off the trail, but went with him in his backpack on each hike. At the end of the hike, he would hide it under a rock or a bush, and he always remembered exactly where it was at the beginning of the next hike. In the bottle were a pencil and a paper listing the legs of the trail, the dates he hiked each one, and who went with him. He would update it on each hike.

Tom became ill after his last hike and was unable to continue hiking. We went to get the bottle a few years later, and of course, he went right to it. He always hoped to get back to hiking, but he passed away on February 21, 2002. A favorite spot of Tom’s on the trail is about seven tenths of a mile west of Kenosha Pass, right where you come out of the forest going west into a beautiful view of South Park. There is a bench in memory of Tom there on which you can sit and rest. If you are hiking the trail over Kenosha Pass, take time to feel his presence with you, helping you soar over the pass. Feel also his love of the trail and appreciation of the beauty of the mountains. We plan to go often to be with Tom and rest on his bench.

His friends and family have donated $1,500 to The Colorado Trail Foundation in memory of Tom. It will be used for maintenance on the trail. I’m sure he is there in spirit hiking his beloved trail.
Photo Essay

Hiking along the Cooper Creek Trail west of Redcloud Mountain in Burrows Park

The view looking west toward Edith Mountain and Cinnamon Pass in Burrows Park
The Colorado Trail Store

Fall Sale: Take 25% off all items. This Tread Lines order form must accompany all orders. Orders must be received by December 31, 2002.

The Colorado Trail: The Official Guidebook
© 2002, 6th edition, 288 pages, 46 full-color maps, 86 color photos, 6x9 format, softcover. $22.95

Along The Colorado Trail
Color photographs by John Fielder, journal by M. John Fayhee, 128 pages, 9x12 format. Softcover (boxed) $25.00

Day Hikes on The Colorado Trail
Text and color photographs by Jan Robertson, 48 pages, 4x9 format. $3.00

The Colorado Trail: The Trailside Databook
1st edition, © 2002, The Colorado Trail Foundation, 48 pages, 4x6 format, 33 color maps, softcover. $5.95

The Colorado Trail Cookbook
300+ recipes, stories, 154 pages, 7x9 easel format, hardcover. $15.00

The Colorado Trail Official Song
Cassette tape, written and performed by Carol Johnson, through hiker and musician. $4.50

Journey to the Fluted Mountain
Cassette tape, by nationally known song writer, Jule Davis, music and story of her hike along the CT. $10.00

The Colorado Trail Map CD-ROM
Official CT reference map series. Print detailed, customizable topographic maps of the CT. Includes GPS waypoint data. For Microsoft Windows or Mac with Virtual PC installed. $40.00

The Colorado Trail Wall Poster Map
17x24 with 28 CT segments marked. Published by Trails Illustrated, 1995. $9.00

The Colorado Trail Completion Plaque
Triangular CT trail maker above an engraved nameplate on wood. $39.00

The Colorado Trail Map/Completion Plaque
CT map in brass on wood with list of segments and up to 30 characters engraved, 9x12. $61.00

The Colorado Trail Commemorative Plaque
CT map in brass on wood with up to 50 characters engraved, 9x12. $70.00

The Colorado Trail Marker
4 ¾ inch high triangular plastic marker used to sign the CT. $2.50

The Colorado Trail T-shirts
Short sleeved, 50/50 blend, CT map on front, segments on back. Khaki brown, royal blue, birch gray. S, M, L, XL
Long sleeved, 100% pre-shrunk cotton, with embroidered CT logo. Heather gray, eggplant. M, L, XL

Size ______ Color ______ $____

Fleece Vest
Forest green with black trim and CT logo. S, M, L, XL

Size ______ $____

The Colorado Trail Baseball Cap
Cotton, embroidered CT logo.

$____

The Colorado Trail Embroidered Patches
CT logo or Completion.

$____

The Colorado Trail Official Pins
CT logo, 200 mile, or 300 mile.

$____

Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue Cards
1 year

$____

Subtotal:

$____

Less 25% Sale: $____

Sales Tax: Colorado residents add 2.9%

Shipping: If your order is:

$____

Total Enclosed: $____

The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th St., # 210, Golden, CO 80401-5843
Phone (303) 384-3729 Fax (303) 384-3743
Email: ctf@coloradotrail.org
Website: www.coloradotrail.org

Tread Lines Fall 2002
Yes, I want to support The Colorado Trail.

Here is my annual contribution as a “Friend of The Colorado Trail.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporter</th>
<th>Contributor</th>
<th>Sustainer</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>$ 15</th>
<th>$ 25</th>
<th>$ 50</th>
<th>$ 75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>Guardian</td>
<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$ 100</td>
<td>$ 250</td>
<td>$ 500</td>
<td>$ 1,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corporate □

Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund $ _______

I am a Senior □ Student □ Individual □ Family □

My employer offers Matching Funds, and I will apply for them. □

I’m ready to volunteer too!

☐ I want to work on a Trail Crew. Please send information.

☐ I’d like information about Adopters of sections along The Colorado Trail.

☐ I will help out with administrative and other volunteer activities.

☐ I want to help out in any way I can. I have specific knowledge of ________________

Name: ________________________________________________

(Please list all names if more than one person.)

Address: ____________________________________________

City: _______________________________________________

State: _______ Zip: ____________________________ Expiration date: ___________________

Telephone: ____________________________ Name on card (print): ___________________

E-mail: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th Street, Suite 210
Golden, CO 80401-5843
www.coloradotrail.org

The Colorado Trail

A Premier Trail and National Treasure

Celebrating the Induction of
Gudy Gaskill into the
Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame