President’s Corner by Jon Greeneisen

A Successful Summer 2003

The Colorado Trail Foundation’s main activities occur in the summer. During summer months we maintain and improve The Trail, conduct educational events, and facilitate use and enjoyment of The Trail. In all three endeavors 2003 was a successful year.

Nearly 300 volunteers teamed up on 20 crews to improve The Trail with projects from Buffalo Creek to Hotel Draw. A third of these laboring volunteers came from 21 states other than Colorado and, altogether, they ranged in age from 9 to 80. They removed trees that obstructed The Trail, built culverts and bridges, hauled gravel to improve The Trail’s surface, cut new trail to reroute around bogs and steep slopes, installed hundreds of water bars to improve drainage and installed countless posts and signs. And, from all reports, most everyone had an enjoyable time in so doing.

Under Gudy Gaskill’s direction, the CTF provided eight week-long classes at the Foundation’s cabin near Lake City. Some 58 individuals

Volunteers Gather for Friends of The Trail Dinner

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Tread Lines is the internal newsletter of The Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published three times a year and distributed to the Friends of The Colorado Trail.

The Colorado Trail is a 500-mile-long, high-mountain educational and recreational hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail that meanders through some of the most beautiful terrain in the state. It stretches from Denver to Durango with many intermediate access points.

The Colorado Trail Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, is governed by private-sector representatives in cooperation with public agencies. The Foundation recruits and trains volunteers for Colorado Trail ("CT") construction crews, supplies and supports the crews, conducts fully supported week-long treks on the CT, teaches accredited classes, maintains the CT through its Adopt-A-Trail program, distributes information on Colorado Trail activities and crews, and creates and distributes publications. Donations to the CIF are tax deductible.

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attended the classes that this year included “Kids Natural World,” a week for children ages 6 to 11. Other classes focused on storytelling, photography, painting, wild flowers and geology. This semester of higher education (elevation 10,800 feet) was a great time of growth and learning for all participants plus the possibility of credits for teachers.

The third leg of the CTF summer was the trek program that offered six week-long supported treks between Kenosha Pass and Durango. Pete Turner and Lisa Hannapel served as the Foundation’s “trek masters” and they provided great mountain experiences along The Colorado Trail for 69 hikers.

On top of this, we met and heard from innumerable hikers, horse riders and mountain bikers who experienced the high mountain country as is only made possible by Colorado’s premier long-distance trail. Some were through-hikers. Others were day-users. But all related their great times out there on The Colorado Trail. Yes, 2003 was a good summer.

Friends-of-the-Trail Dinner

To celebrate, a great summer and, more importantly, to recognize some of the hundreds of volunteers who made the summer successful, almost 100 of us gathered here in Golden on September 27 for an informal potluck dinner. It was a time of meeting CT friends and recalling the good times we had in the mountains.

In addition to recognizing the volunteers who made things happen, we had several super trail crew entertainers. Grey Owl Barrett came from Pryor, Oklahoma, to play tunes on his harmonica and give birdcalls. Ken Stagner recited a couple of memorable, hilarious cowboy poetry tales. And Jim Monk favored us with songs on his guitar. It was a fun evening and a nice way to conclude the CTF summer.

The CTF Board of Directors Meets

The Foundation’s Board of Directors held its fall meeting also on September 27 at the American Alpine Center in Golden. Board members attending
Volunteer Update

Thanks to some special CTF volunteers: John Watt was responsible for the informative article on the CT and its volunteers which appeared in the July “Beacon”, a monthly newspaper serving Western Colorado. Boanie Bleu Vrooman supplied us with our early trail condition reports this summer. Norm Montgomery was another great source of trail information, including identifying some of the best “outhouses” along the CT.

Shirley Ward, Bob Hunter, Dominique Hershberger and Diana Rahl came to our rescue in the CT office numerous times over the last few month filing, stuffing, checking reports and much more. Linda Lawson led us through the maze of insurance policies.

Thanks to Linda also for taking care of the CT Store this past year. We welcome Sandra Moore as the new Store Coordinator.

Carolyn Burtard produced the 2003 Trail Crew Leader Manuals revised by Stan Ward. Dudley Butler provided shuttle services to many CT hikers. Joe Aldridge is designing a digital photo archiving database to help us store and organize the picture history of the CT. Megan Baker and her CT Power Point presentation are revitalizing our CTF Speakers Bureau.

And thanks to our loyal CT Volunteer Coordinators:

- **Adopt a Trail:** Janet Czyzewski
- **Assistant Trail Crew Coordinator:** Ernie Werren
- **Awards:** Ralph DiPentino
- **Bookkeeper:** Liz Truitt
- **Brochure Distribution:** Julie Mesdag
- **Computer Support:** Merle and Larry McDonald
- **Database:** Peggy Bond
- **Data Entry:** Pat Rush
- **Durango Liaison:** Bill Manning
- **Education Committee:** Gudy Gaskill
- **Finance Committee:** Tom Gramling
- **Food Coordinator:** Pat Nagorka
- **Forest Service Liaison:** Ted La May
- **Friends and Funding Committee:** Tracy Esslinger
- **GPS Project Coordinator:** Jerry Brown
- **Investments:** Ken Marshall
- **Library Displays:** Cheryl Annette and Joanne Mercer
- **Operations Committee:** George Miller

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Other Trail Orgs and Volunteer Group Liaison:
Marilyn Eisele

Phone Receptionist:
Charlotte Briber

REI-ORIC Coordinator:
Rolly Rogers

Thank You Notes:
Bea Slingsby and Julie Mesdag

Trail Crew Registrar:
Marylin Greeneisen

Trail Signage:
Julie Mesdag

Tread Lines Asst. Editor and Graphics:
Valerie Miller

Tread Lines Mailers:
Tracy and Lois Cochran

Trek Coordinators:
Pete and Lisa Turner

Trek Liaisons:
Merle McDonald and George Miller

Website:
Wes Ganter

Wood Signs:
Paul Newendorp

"Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."  
Author unknown

A Trail Crew Poem
by Dick Hackman, Crew #1503

I left a nice soft bed back home  
For a place with room to roam!

No more traffic, as in old PA.  
Just a place for Elk to run and play.

We use a Pulaski and McLeod  
Till our muscles almost ache out loud.

Heidi, Heidi, Heidi Ho!  
Off to build some trail we go.

We build a tread 24 to 48,  
Slope it back and take a break.

So goes the day in the Colorado sun,  
Building trail and enjoying everyone.

Heidi, Heidi, Heidi Ho!  
Off to build some trail we go.

When the sun begins to drop,  
We head for camp and something hot.

We talk and eat, and have some fun.  
With new friends in the Colorado sun.

Heidi, Heidi, Heidi Ho!  
Off to build some trail we go.

Signage Along the Trail  
by Julie Mesdag

A project has been initiated to inventory and improve signage along the CT. This is a long-term project designed to gather information (photos and feedback), then determine what we have, what we need, and what needs to be improved.

It has been over 15 years since some of our signage has been placed along The Trail. Time, the elements, and human interaction have taken their toll on many signs. Our goal is to have a documented inventory of all signage along The Trail, EXCLUDING plastic logos on trees. There is quite a variety of existing signage, including but not limited to: wood posts, carsonite posts, cairns, directional signs, trailhead signs, interpretive signs, adopter signs, and dual trail (CDT) signs. Some signs may have a very different current look compared to when they were installed. We would like photos of signage from any point in time from any source, but especially from adopters who visit their sections yearly for maintenance.

Please submit any photos and/or information related to signage to the CTF office, attention: Signage Project.
Food Donations for 2003 Crews

by Pat Nagorka, Food Chair

The following companies generously supported Colorado Trail crews this year. Many have donated food or reduced food costs for several years and we greatly appreciate their generosity. Please do your part and buy their products as often as possible.

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, Green Beans

Madhava Honey, Ltd. (Craig Gerbore)
Honey Bears

Peaberry Coffee, Ltd. (Julie Jockman)
Fresh Ground Coffee

Rocky Mountain Foods (Dave Greenhouse)
Trail Mix, Candy

Voortman Cookies, Ltd. (Bob Hollermeier)
Cookies

VEHICLES FOR SALE

The Foundation has for sale two former Trek Vehicles. A 1989 Dodge 15-passenger window van with 100,042 miles. It looks terrible but runs good.

A 1985 Chevrolet 1/2 Ton short-bed pickup with 90,440 miles. It has a topper and looks pretty good.

For information call George Miller at 719-685-1278.
Food Packing Day at Pat’s

The race was on! Every year packing food for CT crews goes faster—like the racers at Indy. Early arrivals on May 24 got to help set up for 17 mountains of food. They spread out the plastic, put out the number signs, made sure something was holding down the plastic and got ready for the main event.

The group of 20 volunteers had the food all distributed by 9:30! Who are these dedicated volunteers? We welcomed Ken Stagner back from the western slope. The rest of the crew included Lindsay MacMillan; Linda and Chuck Lawson; Marilyn and Rick Eisele; Shirley and Grady Monk; Marylin and Jon Greeneisen; Roger Gomas, plus his two grandsons, Mitch Brown and Ryan Gomas; Mae and Phil Smith plus their niece, Jessie Stoneman; Glenn Kepler with friend Matt Hogue; and Bill Bloomquist.

What a crew!

After the food was all inventoried by crew, boxed and packed either in storage or in a leader’s car, we had plenty of time for lunch. Thanks to those who brought food—brownies, cookie bars and a veggie salad you will see on the menu next year.

Getting the food all sorted and packed, lunch eaten and boxes cleaned up by noon, set a new record. It was great weather and people had the rest of the day for doing their own thing. Thanks to everyone; you get better every year.

Volunteers on 2003 Colorado Trail Crews

There were 279 volunteers who participated on trail crews in the summer of 2003. A number of individuals participated in more than one crew.

Volunteers filled 400 positions on Colorado Trail Crews during the summer of 2003 (361 week-long volunteer crew positions, 39 weekend positions).

Crew volunteers* came from Colorado and 21 other states:

Colorado (152), Texas (15), Michigan (6), Pennsylvania (6), Arkansas (5), Iowa (5), Missouri (5), New York (5), Kansas (4), Arizona (3), Virginia (3), California (2), Florida (2), Illinois (2), Ohio (2), Wisconsin (2), Indiana (1), Maine (1), Minnesota (1), Nevada (1), Oklahoma (1), Tennessee (1).

68% of crew volunteers were from Colorado, 32% from other states.

66% of crew volunteers were males, 34% females.

Average age of all volunteers was 47.6 years.

Age Ranges:

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Most Crews: Wayne Meyers, Ohio, volunteered on SEVEN CT crews.

Colorado’s Bill Bloomquist volunteered on FIVE crews, two of which he led.

(Note: The CT Foundation registered 225 volunteers for trail crews. In addition, 23 youths from around the country participated in 4 crews as Landmark Volunteers and 31 youths from D.C. Oakes High School, Castle Rock, CO participated in 2 crews.)
HELP WANTED

CTF Volunteer Opportunities – Please contact the CTF office with your interest or your questions. Phone 303-384-3729, or email ctf@coloradotrail.org

Press Relations: An energetic volunteer is needed to write press releases and coordinate CTF publicity with the media using our extensive list of media outlets.

Grant Application Manager: We need an individual with the financial skills and attention to detail to prepare simple budgets, track expenditures and prepare and submit final reports for our 2004 grant application process. Two pieces of this project are already in place – sources of grant funding and CTF funding needs. We need the right person to help us put it all together.

CTF Speakers Bureau: Do you LOVE to talk about the CT, your trail crew experiences or your CT hiking experiences? With the help of a new CT Power Point slide show created by Megan Baker, we want to revitalize our team of volunteers to give presentations to groups around the state. Call now to join the CTF Speakers Bureau!

Brochure Stuffing and Distribution: Our color brochures need new inserts with updated store information. You could stuff brochures in the office or take a box home to do at your leisure. Carry on our program by contacting brochure distributors (Visitors Centers, FS offices, etc.) on a yearly basis, mailing brochures, maintaining records. Volunteer can work from home with some visits to CTF office in Golden required.

Office and Newsletter Mailings: Three or four times a year join a great group of volunteers to stuff and label envelopes or newsletters. Evening and/or daytime. Denver or Golden locations.

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

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.

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.

Signage Committee Members: Assist Julie Mesdag, our Signage Coordinator, with many steps involved in the inventory of and planning for signage on The Trail.

CT Completion Awards

The CTF is proud to award everyone who completes The Colorado Trail a complementary Completion Award Certificate. If you have completed The CT and have not received this award, please contact us with your name, address, and dates you started and finished. Our Awards Coordinator, Ralph DiPentino, will prepare and mail you your certificate.
Even after leading thirty years of trail crew, it never ceases to amaze me how much hard, physical labor that volunteers put into their “working vacation.” This year was no exception. They were a hard core group of volunteers that was given the long list of “wish we could do” projects. They accomplished them all and then some. These overachievers were: Richard Brown, Jean Dennis, Rick and Marilyn Eisele, Christina Grant, Alice Sharp, Mary Johnson, Dusty Little, Larry Mack, Cynthia Neal, Mary Ann Newell, and Debbie and Ralph Ploeger.

Richard, Ralph and Ken Marshall (who came up for a couple of days of carpentry) put together the lovely refrigerator cabinet. Ralph and his wife Debbie built a rock wall as well as stone steps down to the driveway and up to the terrace. Marilyn and Rick, with the help from Dusty and others, excavated a site and built a wooden platform for another community dorm so we now have two.

Jean and Mary and Cynthia gathered mountains of wood for Larry to cut with his chain saw. Maryanne, Mary and Jean improved tent pad sites and built new ones. Alice helped Gudy get all of the stored materials and food out of the basement and into the loft—our commissary for the summer.

Alice separated all the food and categorized the boxes. And everyone helped set up the tarps and shower stalls, washstand, dorm tents and dishwashing area. Hot lunches were served every day as we were within hearing distance of the cabin. We even had campfires at night! The repeat workshop students remarked on all the improvements. Thank you all, you did a momentous job!
Trail Crew #0803 Report: St. Kevins Trailhead
July 12-19, 2003

by Jon Greeneisen, Crew Leader

Our gang of 20 gathered at midday on July 12 at the District FS office in Leadville. When all were there we convoyed out and up to the campsite at the St. Kevins Trailhead. Our trail work assignment was in Holy Cross Wilderness.

We got acquainted and reacquainted as we set up camp. Cathy Howard, Sandy and Paul Njaa had come from Arizona. Bill Preston and grandson, Arthur, had driven up from Texas. Rusty Sturm and young friend Josh Ettling had come over from Illinois. Wayne Myers from Ohio was on his sixth CT crew of the summer and Grey Owl Barrett had come from Oklahoma. The rest of us Coloradans included Dewey Hill and son Brian, Dale Zoeteway with sons Ryan and Cory and daughter Tonya, Bill Maltby, Ken Swierenga, Don Van Wyke, Marylin Greeneisen and myself. It was a good mix of veterans and first timers.

The first 2 days were spent building about 800 feet of new trail to bypass a boggy marsh. This included the task of relocating a heavy wood-plank bridge for a stream crossing. On Thursday half of the crew constructed 30 feet of turnpike complete with ditch and French drain where water crosses The Trail from a weeping hillside. Others trimmed foliage and opened up the spur trail to Bear Lake. We renovated drains and water bars along the mile and a half from the trailhead up to the saddle above Lake Fork. Several crew members installed a culvert and improved a crossing where streams come out of Decker’s Lake in Long Gulch and we reworked drains and water bars for two miles north through Porcupine Gulch. The weather cooperated and our days were productive.

We had good campfire gatherings this year since we could have fires. Kansas through-hiker Patrick Thiessen shared his trail experiences two nights (and worked with us a full day). Cory and Ryan Zoeteway entertained with drums. Grey Owl Barrett played his harmonica (blew so hard he broke it). Paul and Sandy Njaa treated us with tales of their experiences hiking in Patagonia. It was a good week and the mosquitoes liked it too.
Trail Crew #0903: Kokomo Pass
July 12-19
by Julie Mesdag

Julie Mesdag and co-leader Liz Harris along with 15 crew members hiked up toward Kokomo Pass on July 12, tools in hand and gear for the week on their backs. We were followed by outfitters Gavin Selway of Bearcat Stables and partner Gary (and their six horses) who had volunteered to pack our gear and food up to the base camp. Thanks Gavin and Gary!

The crew was diverse and talented. In case anyone had a heart attack while at altitude and swinging a pulaski we had Todd Belanger and Michelle Haller, our cardiac nurses. Bob Clemans brought everything we may have forgotten in his 80 lb. pack and earned the “CT Merit Badge” for all his skills, not to mention the hand hewn bridge he designed and built with Bill and Brett Ernst.

Bobbi Ernst (Bill’s wife and Brett’s Mom), celebrated her birthday on the crew, and shared the week with longtime friend from Indiana, Sheri Johnson. Kyle Lohman and Kevin Hoth were our two impressive high school students. Joel Hartl was our resident “Mafia” Master, leading us in a game we played around the campfire several nights before the fire ban on Thursday. Jeff Green, with red hair, was our somewhat local representative, another high school student from Avon.

Matt Miller, who helped with maintenance in this area prior to the crew, entertained us with a song he wrote for the crew on Thursday night. Dean Powers kept watch over the cook tent each night as he snuggled in for a chilly night’s sleep, in addition to his “textbook” trail work. Dallas Peterson of Greeley had worked a previous crew and keeps coming back. Bill Goodwin was our quiet member who got the job done, especially building water bars. Julie and Liz are part of the adopter group for this section, and were first time crew leaders.

We were visited by Nate Kohut and Beth Boyst (who brought ice cream) from the Holy Cross District of the White River NF. We also were visited by several thru-hikers, a thru-cyclist, the first group of CTF trekkers, Pat Rush (who inputs data for the office), Suzanne Reed (office staff) and Marilyn Eisele (CTF board member) who were hiking with the trek program. Outfitter Jake Skobel and his partner from Laka Daza Livery Stables volunteered to bring our camp out on July 19.

Our accomplishments included building 7 check dams, 10 rock water bars, 31 rolling water bars, 5 log water bars, clearing/trimming willows and widening 1-2 miles of trail above tree line below Kokomo Pass, rebuilding cairns with posts above tree line, and widening the trail below tree line. We are incredibly pleased with all we accomplished.

Finally, we thank George Miller and Phil and Michael Mesdag for helping make our week a success.
Trail Crew #1003: North Cottonwood Creek  
July 19-26, 2003

by Andy and Tom Brooksher

Our crew was to complete the section started last year north of the North Cottonwood Creek Trailhead and to tackle a couple of tricky reroutes south of Silver Creek Trailhead.

Twenty-five strong, the crew was a mix of veterans and rookies, young people and "mature" crew members—from 15 to 74. As always on Stan Ward’s crews, there were several family groups: Tracy and Lois Cochran, their brother-in-law Paul Sorensen and his granddaughter Brianna Behler, from Missouri and Brianna’s cousin, Crystal Behler, from Kansas City. Father and son Roy and John English traveled from Arkansas. Rolly Rogers was back for yet another crew along with his daughter and son-in-law Susan and Bob Miner. The Brooksher clan turned out—Tom and sons Andy and Kyle. Jerry Anderson's brother visited us. Stan’s brother-in-law Ernie Svetec came again from Pennsylvania. Others included Hamdy Taha and Sally Stone from Arkansas and Coloradan Dan Russell.

With 6 members between 15 and 19 years old, there was always a group of young people having fun. Brianna, Crystal, Kyle, Andy, and Kyle's friends Nate Davis and Lee Ellison, shared hours of story telling, card playing and music making.

Sunday morning the crew received instruction on tool safety and trail building, then spent the rest of the day relaxing. Late in the afternoon, clouds gathered and, with little warning, high winds raced through the camp, upending one of the canopies and breaking the ridge and support poles in the cook tent where Laura Farmer and Ernie Svetec were preparing dinner. Sue Palmer had just walked out. The crew got the canopy righted but the crew tent had to be sacrificed to provide replacement supports for the cook tent. Dinner was served on time!

On Monday, Stan divided us into three work crews. Two headed north to finish the work started the previous year and to rebuild rolling dips. In all, the north crews rebuilt about 4,600 feet of serious trail. The third crew went south to cut a 600-foot reroute around a section of The Trail that had suffered beaver damage.

We were fortunate to have Roy Senyard from Arkansas, an FS certified chain saw handler, and equally fortunate that John Lipe had brought his chain saw. Roy was immediately pressed into action. On Wednesday John bought a new, heavy-duty chain saw and repaired his old one, which he generously donated to the CT Foundation.

The group scattered far and wide on Wednesday, rafting on the Arkansas River, enjoying the local hot springs, and shopping.

When we returned on Thursday, work began on a 700-foot-plus reroute to move The Trail off an area that was more boulder than hikeable surface. This required removing more than a dozen trees, some over 50 feet tall, and their humongous stumps. The new trail required two switchbacks, retaining walls and numerous water bars. When we called it quits on Friday afternoon, we had completed work on about 5,900 feet of trail—reconstruction, refurbishing and reroutes.

At Awards Night on Friday evening, each member of the crew had secretly selected another crew member during the week and made, borrowed or bought an award-gift that recognized something about the other crew member’s contribution during the week. It was a fun time of presentations around a blazing campfire.
Trail Crew #1103 Report: Copper Mountain
July 19-26, 2003

Our mission was to dig out a troublesome section of the CT south of Copper Ski Resort that becomes a bog when it rains. The excavated section was to be filled in with six inches of large gravel, a layer of erosion sheeting, two inches of pea gravel, then dirt, and packed and wetted down. The big hurdle was getting the gravel up 300 yards of trail to the work site.

Plan A was for the Forest Service to delivery the 20 tons of gravel on snow cats during winter. Didn’t happen. Plan B was using three wheelbarrows powered by “human mules.” This worked but our human mules wore out fast. Plan C was a bucket brigade (50 lbs. each) up the first steep section to meet the wheelbarrows. This worked until Copper Mountain took pity on us and offered an ATV.

We outfitted the ATV to hold four buckets and widened the horse trail in various places to keep the ATV from turning over. Then we established a gravel pickup station complete with our own Nascar pit crew so we could load buckets placed at each ATV wheel in record-breaking time. It’s not easy hoisting 50 lb. buckets to chest level! The round-trip record for the ATV over the horse trail was eight minutes flat. We ultimately hauled 15 tons of gravel, picked, shoveled and pried down 8 inches of rock and dirt and laid in the new materials over 150 feet.

The fruit of our labors was to eat like kings. Camp Chef Bev Mulholland (a.k.a. Llama Mamma) even met us at the work site with ice-cold cantaloupe. Thru-hikers were always invited to share our delicious meals and they treated us with their trail adventures.

Evenings were spent reading, in lively discussions, and the never-ending card game UNO. Our crew leader Merle McDonald shared moments of his Mount McKinley climb, which was worth staying up to hear. On Sunday Lillian Lin, Jennifer Rector and Peter Mueller climbed Mt. Elbert, the teens took to the Ten Mile Range trail and Wednesday, nine of us rode the rapids on the Arkansas River.

On our last evening in camp, Sarah Ebert and Samantha “Sammie” Mounts presented each crew member with a special award recognizing notable talents and required a demo of each talent. Merle presented CT certificates and commemorative scarves. It was a memorable time.
Sometimes things just seem to come together for a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. That is what happened with our Hotel Draw Crew.

We set up camp on Thursday, July 17, with the help of next crew leader Ken Marshall, section adopter LaVern Nelson, old Trail helper Larry Johnson, new Trail enthusiast Ernie Norris, and Texas crew member Gerry Fall. Ken, with help from George Miller, had arranged for port-a-potties—one of the camp highlights. Added to this was LaVern’s Taj Mahal of showers.

One of our crew’s tasks was to bump up over 80 treated wooden posts 3 miles to be used as water bars. Another was to carry 4 6-foot culverts and Geo-Tech material 2 to 3 miles to improve boggy areas. At week’s end, the crew could look back on many major accomplishments: 45 treated post water bars, 24 rolling dips, 500 feet of new trail, berm removal on 1,500 feet of trail, reconstruction of a major switchback, and best of all, installation of 2 culverts and 45 feet of Geo-Tech to resolve a major drainage problem.

When awards were handed out, we recognized Larry Ballantyne, Jim Ballantyne and Paul Berteau who drained the bog, installed the culverts, wheeled rock and dirt, and then covered the rocks with Geo-Tech and dirt. Steve Kin and Peter Owen took on a big job in reconstructing the switchback with a retaining wall and drainage ditch to make it usable for bikes and horses and to withstand forces of nature. Carol Clapp, Cathy Hoch, Linda Johnson and Rhiannon Mercer did a great job of berm removal. John Lydon was on his first trail crew and picked up maintenance techniques real fast.

One project was to relocate about 400 feet of The Trail off the Hotel Draw Road. Lynn Mattingly supervised the job with Hollie Irvin as stump remover, Jim McIntosh, his assistant, and John Watt, Carol Clapp, and Pat La May there to help.

Bill Manning, a CTF board member, came to sharpen the tools for both Hotel Draw crews. Also Jodie Petersen, Dave Peters, Bill Manning, Ed Zink, Richard Dutton and Melanie Crook rode bikes to Blackhawk Pass and worked on the far end of The Trail. LaVern Nelson brought fresh water, ice, fresh eggs, bacon and milk and an uplifting sense of humor. Ken Marshall solved our water problems and gave other support.

Two people really helped make the week for me. Good friend Ernie Norris helped reconnoiter The Trail with Ken Marshall and me and helped many other ways. My wife Pat, friend and co-leader, made it possible for me to be the crew leader.

As one of the crew leaders said, “A great bunch of volunteers made up this work crew.”
Trail Crew #1403 Report: Cochetopa Hills 1
July 26-August 2

by Phil Smith, Crew Leader

This was a large crew from the Daniel C. Oakes High School in Castle Rock. The group included 3 teacher/sponsors, 15 present students, 3 school alumni, and crew leaders Phil and Mae Smith — 23 in all! This school has had a CT crew every year since about 1997 (except for last year when fire danger canceled the week).

The crew worked at about 12,000 feet elevation, and continued rehabilitating the tread that had been worked on 12 years earlier. We completed 1,314 feet of tread. Some of the tread was in an open meadow and a couple of times we had to stop work and leave the area because of lightning. One afternoon near quitting time when we were working in the trees, it began to rain and there was considerable lightning. It quit in half an hour but for safety the students crossed the high meadow one at a time spaced 100 yards apart. The meadow is about half a mile long.

The team worked Monday through Friday with shorter hours each day and half a day on Wednesday. On the half day we cleared loose rock from The Trail for about two miles.

The hard workers were: Von Ahlone, Crystal Allen, Chaz Audet, Andrea Borzillo, Ted Carlson, Cody Clawson, Brandon Couder, Kerrie Grimes, Jeremy Harrison, John Manning, Doug Martin, Amanda Nettleton, Meagan Owens, Adrienne Packer, Fallon Reed, Renee Rudolph, Greg Simons, Mae and Phil Smith, Ken Winko, Brian Wood, Elise Wunderlich, and Herbert “Phil” Rhees.

Speciality Crew - Daniel C. Oakes High School Students

Trail Crew #1803 Report: Cochetopa Hills 2
August 9-16

by Phil Smith, Crew Leader

This was a crew of students from the Daniel C. Oakes High School in Parker. There were 7 students, 2 teacher/sponsors, 1 alumnus from the Castle Rock school, plus crew leaders Phil and Mae Smith. The crew was to start work where the earlier D. C. Oakes crew ended, in a meadow. Because the young people had no trail crew building experience, they were trained and first worked on trail in the trees below the meadow. When they had learned how to handle the tools and build tread, we moved up to the meadow.

We had to stop the work and go into the trees a couple of days when clouds rolled in with the threat of lightning. The schedule was the same as crew 1403: working six days, shorter hours each day, and half day on Wednesday. The crew repaired 955 feet of tread.

Crew members this week included:
Stephanie Barrios, Steve Brockmeyer, Amy Cable, Kelley Gorham, Jared Guesnier, Jennifer Lee, Zach Patterson, Phil Rhees, Zach Sanders, Mae and Phil Smith, and Jake Thiessen.

Speciality Crew - Daniel C. Oakes High School Students
Trail Crew #1503 Report: Hotel Draw 2
July 26-August 2, 2003

by Ken Marshall, Crew Leader

Crew 1503 endured daily rains, long hikes to the work site and lifting heavy pressure treated logs weighing 30 to 45 pounds each. The logs measuring 7 feet in length were carried on the shoulder for as many as 3 miles up The Trail sometimes gaining 1300 feet elevation. We were the mules of the “Twenty Mule Team Borax” days.

All totaled we carried 43 logs up the mountain, installed 15 water bars, placed 8 trail marker posts and signs, installed 2 culverts and removed a mile of berm.

Meals to keep these “mules” going were tasty and superbly prepared by our crew of 21 volunteers. Tuesday afternoon a backpacker named Kyle Rapp arrived in camp and joined our crew for the remainder of the week. After signing the CTF waiver forms, what a great “mule” he made.

We had another “mighty mule” named Will Ghormley who built a frame of small limbs and carried two logs at a time. Will and his three kids Sarah, Anita, and Sam contributed mightily to our crew.

Four crew members installed two six-foot culverts at stream crossings which, because of the distance from camp, took most of the week. Dick Hackman and Charlie Ament installed one while John Marksbury and Wayne Myers installed the other.

Allen Kallenbach won “The Rock Award” by being always ready for the heavy stuff.

John Lipe from Castle Rock was always first up the hill and usually one of the last back to camp. My neighbor Jack Campbell, part of the “mule team,” was always ready to take up any duty needed.

Marilyn and Rick Eisele “manned” the lopper and the limb saw and trimmed and cut the trees and bushes encroaching on The Trail. The four miles took them nearly the whole week! Kirstin Riggs and Sarah Lockwood, our youngest crew members, carried many logs, one on each end and always in step.

Rusty Dowling and John Wilson worked as a team and attacked berm removal and water bar installation. Rusty also was our “kitchen manager”. John Watt (our lunch provider). Jim McIntosh, and Adele Junkin worked closer to camp and were our camp hosts.

On our one dry evening on Wednesday we had a wonderful campfire with songs and song sheets provided by Dick Hackman. Thru-hikers Dana and Harvard Townsend from Kansas joined in with their trained voices.

Thanks to Bill Manning who sharpened our tools and led a team of bikers to repair trail at the high end of the work site and to LaVerne Nelson, adopter of this section, who provided fresh water and a wonderful shower stall. Thanks also to Nancy Berry of the USFS who approved the four port-a-potties!
Trail Crews #1303 and #1603 Reports: Fooses Creek 1 and 2 July 19-August 2  
by Abigail Colodner, Crew Member

My reason for joining a volunteer trail-improvement group was to fulfill my school’s service credit requirement and The Colorado Trail was my first choice.

Six boys and six girls formed our group along with Landmark Volunteers Leader Mike Wight and CTF Crew Leader Bill Bloomquist. Most of the Landmark Volunteers were 16 (my age). The first week we also had on the crew two teens from Pennsylvania—Sam Shortle and John Sittler—and Sam’s older sister Dierdre Shortle.

We first hiked uphill two miles on The Trail where we camped the two weeks. Our gear and food was hauled up by Clair Gambel, Tom Butterfield and an army of their horse-riding and packing friends. Lugging our packs made the hike difficult for everyone and the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do. As Alexandra (Alex) Sadowski said several times, “I think I’m going to die!”

We also hiked a mile or two each day to our work sites where we worked on widening grassy trails, improving drainage, building culverts, replacing mud with large rocks and digging trenches. I spent several hours shoveling gravel out of a creek with Nina Schuchman (New Jersey) and Emily Gurnee (Wisconsin) and on drainage projects with Jamie Rodriguez (New York). I cooked most nights with James Most, learning the mixed fun of how to prepare camp meals.

On our day off, several people climbed Mt. Shavano. Jacob Marder, an Eagle Scout from Maryland, and Deirdre Din (New York) made it to the peak (I stopped about 1,000 feet from the top). Marmots scurried between boulders and the fourteeners were visible in a gorgeous view. Evenings around the campfire we enjoyed jokes and antics from Ben Turtel (New Jersey), Alec Morrison (New York), Kevin Chaskalson (Florida) and others.

The second week we were joined by veteran trail workers Mark Santa-Maria (Michigan), Rhiannon Mercer (Nevada), and two Coloradans—Steve Espinoza and Roy Leonard. We had to bid farewell to the Pennsylvania contingent and Jake Lerner.

We ended up improving four miles of The Colorado Trail. I feel proud of the changes we made and pleased that we helped hikers and bikers who may never know of our efforts but get to enjoy the results.
Our camp was at Goat Wadi north of Cree Creek where CT treks and crews have camped for years. This is Rolly Rogers’s adopted section between Shavano Campground and U.S. 50 and our team of 19 volunteers was on site to make a number of trail improvements.

The group included three from outside Colorado: Russ Kaplan and Mark Seklemian had flown out from Virginia while Grey Owl Barrett had driven back from Oklahoma for his second crew of the summer. Coloradans were Roger Gomas and grandsons Ryan Gomas and Mitch Brown, Grady Monk and grandsons Ryan and Shawn, Bev Gherardini, Paul Newendorp, Rolly Rogers, Bob Seklemian (Mark’s dad), Ken Swierenga, Don Van Wyke, Dale Zoeteway, Marylin Greeneisen and myself. Larry Mack was a welcome addition when he came out on Thursday to use his come-along skills in pulling out several stumps that obstructed The Trail.

The section of The Trail just north of U.S. 50 has always been a hot, steep challenge for hikers headed up toward Denver. And it has been a rocky, slippery section for folks headed down toward Durango. Our task was to cut a long, gentle traverse across the face of the hill thus eliminating the problem. Despite the slope, rocks, heavy brush, and hot sun, our crew of experienced trail workers completed the new trail by Tuesday afternoon just ahead of an afternoon storm.

Crew 1703 completed a number of other improvements the rest of the week: installed a culvert and widened two log bridges at Cree Creek (our ongoing fight with the beavers), cleaned out a major “blow down” of a few years ago, cut drains and built water bars, built a culvert at Lost Creek and installed a number of Paul Newendorp’s trail signs.

We had a good encampment—good food and evening campfires. Through-hikers joined us for dinner several nights. Appalachian Trail through-hikers Princess of Darkness and Train Wreck, hiking the CT, shared tales of their experiences on the AT and up-to-Cree-Creek on the CT. CT friends Stan and Ruth Barnes (Salida residents) and Paul and Sandy Njaa (Buena Vista summer residents) had dinner with us Thursday. We also celebrated two birthdays—for Paul Newendorp and the crew leader—with cake, rap songs, ceremony, and outlandish crowns. And, of course, some hard fought 99 games lasted into the nights. But a major highlight was the availability of portable toilets illuminated by solar lights (!), which must say something about CT crews.
2003 Classes at the CTF Education Center

by Gudy Gaskill

The CTF classes went well this summer with an exceptional assortment of excellent instructors. We had 8 week-long classes at the CTF cabin with 58 participants in groups ranging in size from 6 to 12.

Jan and Dan Wolfe again were invaluable helpers. Jerry Brown came and gave us good advice on our solar power, the refrigerator and other problems and helped close up at the end of summer. Lynn Mattingly spent a night. My husband Dave Gaskill came to bring me a vehicle after the truck broke down and he stayed a week. A number of former “students” stopped by to say HI! Everyone loves the cabin site. The CTF is so fortunate to have the cabin as our Education Center.

The following is a resume of classes conducted by the Foundation this year:

June 22-28: Kids Natural World. There were nine children enrolled, four adults plus our daughter Polly (cook) and her two children, Dean Thurston, instructor, and his helpful daughter/assistant Becca, and myself. Twenty in all. Dean had activities for the children from breakfast to after dinner. They painted, told stories, did geology (with safety glasses and rock hammers), climbed Handies, went fishing, did evening stargazing, walks and games, built shelters, succumbed to a maze, collected butterflies, pressed flowers and ended the week by rock climbing with ropes. The kids loved every minute!

June 29-July 5: The Art of Storytelling. There were six participants plus Julie Davis, instructor. Jan, Dan, Dave and Gudy. Eleven in all. The first day focused on the elements of storytelling, and how they are put together. Each following day different themes were suggested for stories or you could read a story from Julie’s library and then tell it to the group. Julie critiqued the stories and wound up with stories each person had been working on during the week. There were some great stories told.

July 6-12: Photography. There were nine participants plus instructor Lee Van Ramshorst and Dan. Lee produced a beautiful handbook for each student titled “Practical High Country Photography.” There were lectures, demonstrations, discussions and field trips with lots of places to take beautiful pictures. We looked at digital photos on a laptop in the evenings. A group reunion was held at Lee’s house in August.

July 13-19: Oil and Watercolor. Instructor George Callison with 9 participants plus myself. Jan and Dan made a group of 13 for the week. George lectured on Monday about colors, color wheel, composition and had the students do pencil sketches. Early Tuesday and Wednesday mornings were devoted to oil and watercolor demonstrations as well as critiquing on composition and paintings. Thursday was spent painting in American Basin and Friday the class moved over to a beaver pond for reflections and water. Great progress was made by all in a week!

Continued on page 19
Classes at the CTF
Continued from page 18

July 20-26: Rocky Mountain Wildflowers. Those who attended this class were extremely knowledgeable about flowers and kept instructor Dick Mosely on his toes. Flowers were out in abundance. The cloudless sky allowed more time in the field hunting down new species. I believe a record number of flowers were identified and a couple people would stay up late to catalog the day’s find. This class was a winner for observing flowers!

August 3-9: Geology of the San Juans. This class was overfilled with 12 participants, instructor Pete Varney, his wife Tish, and myself. Monday was a lecture on geology followed by four days of field trips—Tuesday morning at the upper mine, Wednesday in American Basin to view rock glaciers, Thursday a hike to Cooper Lake and Friday to the top of Slumgullion Slide. Each participant received a geological notebook from Pete. Great hands-on field study.

August 10-16: Watercolors in the San Juans. Margaret Barge has been teaching watercolor to CTF classes for six years and is an old pro around the hills. Each day was a new location with water, trees, rocks, valleys, mine buildings and mountain views. At the end of the week, with Marge’s critiquing, each student could see for his/herself how to improve his/her painting. All students’ paintings were matted for an art show Friday afternoon followed by wine and cheese.

2004 Summer Vacation Workshops

The secret is out! The schedule for the 2004 vacation/workshops is firmed up and ready for your calendars. Why sizzle in the heat when you can be enjoying the cool breezes from the mountains? If you don’t like sleeping in a tent on the ground, we now have men’s and women’s dorm tents that sleep four, with beds. There is a spigot for running water and a couple of shower stalls for your sun shower bags. Dinner is served on the deck, with a million-dollar view. Scrumptious, family style, all-you-can-eat meals keep the body charged up for the next exciting day.

Pick your workshop and contact Gudy Gaskill to be assured of a spot within our limit of ten. Top-of-the-line instructors will lead you, or you can opt out for the day if you feel like relaxing. It’s designed for all levels. Courses will include:

Children’s Nature World (kids and parents or grandparents only)  The Art of Storytelling
Oil and Watercolor Painting  Practical Photography
Geology  Rocky Mountain Wildflowers
Alpine and Subalpine Wildflowers  Watercolors in the San Juans
High Country Ecosystems  Mountain Photography
As Gudy Gaskill has always said, “There is magic on The Colorado Trail.” After six consecutive weeks of being on the Colorado Trail in the summer of 2003, we have now experienced this “true magic.”

The 2003 trek program successfully completed sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; beginning on July 13 at Kenosha Pass and arriving in Durango on August 22. Of the total 69 trekkers, five completed The Trail this year. Congratulations go out to Bruce Glenn, Lynn Anderson, James Vandermiller, Storme Rose and Bill Dotson for completing the entire Colorado Trail.

“What was the best part about managing the trekking program?” There was no one best part but many.

The people who participated in the treks were perhaps number one. It was “magic” to see a group of total strangers on the first day evolve into life-long friends by week’s end. Providing a meal, some assistance and companionship to individuals “through hiking” the entire Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango, was another.

So was sitting on top of the Ten Mile Range (Section 2) and San Luis Pass (Section 5) at noon in absolutely gorgeous weather (no wind or thunderstorms). Trekkers enjoyed rare leisurely extra-long lunches (and a sunny nap) with 360-degree views. Once again, the magic of The Trail was prevalent.

Finally, after being on The Trail for six consecutive weeks, it was really nice to finish in Durango, go home to sleep on a bed and take a real shower.

Oh, we almost forgot…. there is one more really good memory we will never forget on The Colorado Trail... on Wednesday August 20, we got married at 6:30 am on The Trail just south of Orphan Butte. We never told anybody what we were planning because we did not know ourselves until about two weeks prior. We had to figure out how we would get our friend and minister Charlie Ellison into one of the camps. We knew the 20th would
be a layover day for camp as well as a short hike for the hikers. Consequently, trekkers could sleep in, we could get married and return back to camp to cook breakfast! That same afternoon, the trekkers escorted us back to the exact place where we exchanged our vows and presented to us a song and poems that they composed. There was not a dry eye in the whole group that afternoon. It was a magical day never to be forgotten.

The 2003 staff was outstanding!! Thanks to George and Lila Miller who did an outstanding job recruiting veterans from past trek years. The entire staff made our rookie year on The Colorado Trail a whole bunch easier. Working these treks is not an easy job! Thanks go out to Cristina Stark, Christi Strickland, Kent Newman, Joan Kellogg, Jayne Griffith, Sue Miller, Mark Lucas, Ralph Dipentino, Gordon Allen, Jeff Poling, Merle McDonald, Charlotte Aycrigg, Barb and Dave Munk, and Mary Anne Nelson.

We hope to see the same staff back for the 2004 treks. If you want to join this stellar crew and work on the trek program, please contact us this winter at home (970-385-7720) or the CTF office. Staff registration is generally done in April.

In 2004, sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be offered. The final schedule will not be complete until January, but you can expect the treks to begin either the third or fourth Sunday in June and end in Durango either the first or second Saturday in August.

Registration forms for all sections will be available and mailed out by the end of January 2004. Lottery results will be available by April 1. The trek program has been very popular, so do not procrastinate!

If you have hesitated to go on a trek out of fear of what to expect, please call or e-mail Lisa or Pete at their home (970-385-7720, or contact@coloradoexpeditions.com).
Janet Czyzewski joins Adopt-A-Trail Program

Janet Czyzewski joins the Adopt-A-Trail Program as the new coordinator. Janet is a Colorado native who has always loved the outdoors. She is an avid hiker, backpacker, cross-country skier, snowshoer, and gardener. For the last six years, Janet has made time on The Trail a vacation priority and a highlight of her summer by hiking with our trek program and with friends. She was impressed by the people she met on her treks, both CTF staff and fellow hikers, including out-of-staters who came to hike Colorado’s premier trail. In 2003, she completed The Colorado Trail. Knowing how hard everyone worked to make The Trail special, she knew she wanted to be a part of it.

Look for more exciting trail crew reports in the next edition of Treadlines!

George Miller drove a total of 6,687 miles this summer for The Colorado Trail Foundation!

“We Need Your Shirt!”

Vintage CT tee shirts from the 70s and 80s are needed for a commemorative Trail quilt being made by Jan Wolfe. You can leave yours at the CT office in Golden or call Liz Truitt at 303-935-5805.
# The Colorado Trail Store

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$22.95

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$3.00

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**The Colorado Trail Cookbook,** 30 recipes, stories, illustrations, 7x9 format  
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**The Colorado Trail Official Song,** cassette tape, written and performed by Carol Johnson, thru-hiker and musician  
$4.50

**Journey to the Fluted Mountain,** cassette tape story and music by nationally known Julie Davis of her hike along The CT with her dog and two goats  
$20.00

**The Colorado Trail Map CD ROM,** official CT reference map series; Windows-compatible; print detailed, customizable topographic trail maps; GPS waypoint data. Mac-compatible if Virtual PC installed.  
$40.00

**New Item: For Love of a Trail,** documentary about The CT and volunteers, Gudy Gaskill interview, 2002 crew footage, 46 mins., VHS tape or DVD (NTSC) format.  
$20.00

**The Colorado Trail Wall Poster Map,** 17x24 with 28 segments marked; published by Trails Illustrated, 1995  
$9.00

**The Colorado Trail Completion Plaque,** triangular CT trail marker above an engraved nameplate on wood  
$39.00

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

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

**The Colorado Trail Marker,** 4 1/4" high triangular plastic marker used to sign The CT  
$2.50

**CTF Watercolor Notecards,** two series of ten cards/envelopes painted by Colorado artists.  
Series 1 and 2 sold separately for $9.75 each or both sets for $17.75.  
$17.75

**The Colorado Trail T-Shirts:** Short sleeved, 50/50 blend, CT map on front, segments on back  
Heather gray, Eggplant. S, M, L, XL.  
Size Color  
$11.00

**The Colorado Trail Mock Ts:** Long sleeved, 100% pre-shrunk cotton, with embroidered CT logo  
Heather gray, Eggplant. M, L, XL.  
Size Color  
$17.00

**Fleece Vest:** Forest green with black trim and CT logo. S, M, L, XL.  
Size Color  
$40.00

**The Colorado Trail Baseball Cap,** cotton, embroidered CT logo  
$15.00

**The Colorado Trail Embroidered Patches,** CT logo or Completion  
$2.50

**The Colorado Trail Official Pins,** CT logo. 200-mile or 300-mile  
$2.00

**Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue Cards,** One-year card  
$3.00

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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 CT sections.
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