The Colorado Trail
Celebrating 30 Years
1974 - 2004

The simplicity, the beauty, the exertion
and a good night’s rest on the Trail all wound
their way into my soul, planted themselves
and grew into a memorable experience.

-Nancy J. Butler
President’s Corner by Jon Greeneisen

30 Years Later: A “Self-Sustaining” Trail

Thirty years ago in 1974 The Colorado Trail had its beginning. A small band of visionaries that included Gudy Gaskill (who became the CT’s driving force) acted on the idea of a long-distance trail through Colorado’s Rocky Mountains. This year we’re celebrating the Trail’s 30th Anniversary.

What’s surprising is that with establishment of the CT as a premier, high-mountain trail and a small army of volunteers organized as the Colorado Trail Foundation, The Colorado Trail, in large measure, has become self-sustaining.

This summer more than 300 volunteers will pack their gear, camp out, pay a fee, sometimes hike several miles to a work site and perform manual labor to maintain and improve the Trail. We’ll have 19 work crews with volunteers coming from 20 or more states across the country. Why do they come? Because they enjoy camping and working in the mountains and they believe it’s a good thing to do.

Then there are 68 Adopters with their many helpers who have adopted the 58 adopter sections of the Trail (averaging 8 miles apiece). They head out early in the season to check their sections, remove downed trees and make repairs to ensure the Trail is open. The adopters take real pride in their pieces of The Colorado Trail and provide our “front line” in keeping the Trail in high condition.

In many ways the Trail seems to find and motivate volunteers for its own preservation and upkeep. Four years ago, for example, a hiker came through our crew camp who said he was hiking down the Trail to meet up with friends in Rico. When we explained how the CT Foundation works, we leaned he was Jonathan Krauss, an attorney from Steamboat Springs. Jonathan became so enthused about the Trail that he soon signed on as a valued member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

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The Colorado Trail Foundation invites you to celebrate
The Colorado Trail's 30th Anniversary

Saturday, September 25th
5 pm Social Hour
6 pm Spaghetti Dinner
7 pm Special Guest Speakers and Entertainment

St. Rose of Lima Church
Buena Vista, Colorado

Tickets are $8 and can be purchased from the CTF Office
303-384-3729
ctf@coloradotrail.org

Mark Your Calendar!

When: Saturday, September 25, 5:00 p.m.
Where: Buena Vista, Colorado
What: Celebration of The Colorado Trail’s 30th Anniversary

An evening of celebration! At 5:00 p.m. visit with “Friends of the Trail” while viewing a movie of Michael Martin Murphy’s singing and horseback ride on The Colorado Trail.

A spaghetti dinner at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by speeches and entertainment. Meet Jon Greeneisen, our CTF president, listen to Gudy Gaskill give a history of the Trail, and laugh at the humor of two Outside Magazine contest winners and their ensuing hike on The Colorado Trail. Help recognize our Adopt-A-Trail volunteers and get updates on the trek and educational programs. Hear the CT song sung by a nationally known singer and storyteller. There will be door prizes and a special CT gift for each “Friend” who attends.

All this for an $8.00 dinner ticket. It will be a fun evening for users and friends of The Colorado Trail. Register early as seating is limited and the celebration is open to the public. Bring your family and friends and make it a fall color drive through our spectacular golden aspens. Purchase tickets through the CTF office (cash, check or credit card) and know that you will not be left out.

Another large organization will be in Buena Vista that evening on their annual fall ride, so contact the BV Chamber of Commerce, www.fourteenernet.com/buenavista/ or 719-395-6612 for hotel, motel, B&B and campgrounds. Don’t forget the two hot springs sites as well as the 14ers and passes that you can enjoy in the area. Treat yourself and make it a date.

The 30th Anniversary Committee needs help preparing and serving the spaghetti dinner. Please contact Julie Mesdag, jwmesdag@hotmail.com or 303-469-2213 for details.
Navigating The Colorado Trail

by Steve Staley

If you think you’re lost, you’re probably lost! This was the principal navigation lesson learned this past summer on my solo Denver to Durango trek of our stupendous Colorado Trail. Parenthetically, I only got lost five times (the longest stretch was two hours) which I felt was pretty good.

Backtrack if you think you’re lost and don’t try to “shortcut” to the place you think you should be unless you’re very good with a GPS. “Shortcutting” cost me the two hours. I eventually gave up and backtracked. Also, I would not rely much on the self-appointed “trail experts” you encounter on the Trail; your own self-reliance is the best source of information (you’ll be surprised at how few people there are on the CT in any event).

Here are my suggestions (lessons learned) on navigating the CT:

First, study the guidebook and data book by segment and thoroughly plan and visualize your route, campsites and water stops. Plan the whole Trail at a high level but plan the next few segments in detail. Water stops are particularly important since some stretches are without water for up to 20 miles (unless you find the puddle referred to in the guidebook).

Second, get a sense of where you are, where you’re going directionally and the topography of where you’ll be. Obviously, your shadow tells you direction at a minimum, however, a compass should be kept handy. Mine was easily accessible in my pocket. Try to navigate by feel and by seeking out the CT signs.

Third, refer to the guidebook and data book constantly during your journey. I kept mine in a pouch on the waist belt of my pack, again easily accessible. While the CT is generally well marked, there are some confusing spots. One tip is to triangulate your assumed speed with the estimated time you should be at a landmark highlighted in the guidebook. Try to get a definite sense of your pace (flat, uphill, downhill, rugged, easy). Let’s say you are moving at three miles per hour and a landmark is one mile away. You should reach that landmark in 20 minutes.

Fourth, use the guidebook and data book in conjunction with one another since each one alone does not tell the full story. To save weight I cut up my guidebook into the various segments and only carried the segments needed. Of course, carelessness is your worst enemy. While I did have all the topos, I didn’t use them except to learn what was around me (peaks, creeks, etc.). I would not dissuade you from using topos but the above worked better for me.

Fifth, consider taking a GPS. While I had one with me, I only used it twice to verify my position and not to find my position. My thoughts on relying primarily on a GPS are about the same as relying primarily on topos. My sense tells me not to rely solely on an electronic gadget.

Most importantly, commit...then plan...then follow thru on your trek on The Colorado Trail! Happy trails.

Editor’s Note: (Steve and his partner “Friends of Yoda” are original 1987 adopters of a 12-mile section of the CT. At that time, Steve vowed to do an end-to-end of the Trail in memory of Ron “Yoda” Davies and in celebration of Colorado and the CT. This year Steve joined the CTF Board of Directors “as a give back.”)
Using GPS on the Trail

by Bill Reed

On a well-marked, well-traveled route like The Colorado Trail — equipped with good maps, excellent CT guide-books and a compass — why carry the extra weight of a GPS receiver (and those spare batteries for it)? After all, your map and compass skills really are second to none. And it is fun to unfold, read and re-fold a paper map in a howling wind on an exposed ridge with thunderheads looming to try to figure out which fork to follow at an unmarked junction. You’ve never awakened from a trail-trudging reverie to suddenly realize you can’t recall spotting a CT marker for a while and try to overcome that nagging feeling that you should be climbing to a pass rather than descending into a valley. Not you.

I knew that the technology had turned the corner to mainstream acceptance when CT Board member Bill Bloomquist...he of the antique, external-frame Kelty pack...revealed recently that he had acquired his first GPS receiver. This occurred while XC-skiing in a whiteout on Rabbit Ears Pass as we reached a decision, based on a GPS bearing, that it was indeed the right place to head down-slope and return to the trailhead.

The Colorado Trail is easily the most advanced long trail in the country in the adoption of GPS for mapping and navigation aids. Thanks to the leadership of the Board and thousands of hours of volunteer effort, the CT enables GPS-equipped users to easily obtain a comprehensive set of navigational waypoints for use on the Trail. These are available for download from the web, in The Trailside Data book publication or from the CT’s electronic map package. With such an impressive array of resources there’s simply no excuse for getting lost along the CT, unless of course you want to.

A “waypoint” is a geographic coordinate for a specific location of interest: a Trail junction, campsite, water source or the like. A GPS receiver can be loaded with waypoints either manually or by download from a PC. Waypoints organized sequentially form a route, like a series of invisible cairns along the Trail. Since a GPS receiver always knows exactly (to within a few meters) where it is, it can easily and automatically calculate the bearing and distance to any waypoint stored in its memory. So it was that we knew with confidence in that whiteout that it was time to descend. So you might also know: how far to the campsite, which fork to follow or the bearing and distance to a water source — just off the Trail — where you can refill your empty bottles.

Essential? No. But very handy. For safety: in an emergency you can communicate your exact location to rescue personnel (they use GPS extensively). To help the CT: use your GPS to record the coordinates of Trail damage and report the exact location to the office. For exploration: record a quick waypoint then go ahead and bushwhack up that ridge to see what’s on the other side; the GPS will point you back to where you left the Trail.

If you don’t already have a GPS receiver, you’re likely to get one with your next new cell phone. By 2005. FCC regulations require that all new cell phones must have a rudimentary GPS capability. Why wait though? By then you may be ready to relegate your compass to the same drawer where you keep that old slide rule to show the grandkids. Keep them handy though; they really are better.
Heading Toward Alzheimer’s? Try This Cure

by Gudy Gaskill

It’s easy and it’s fun. It’s been proven through case studies that keeping your mind active and learning new technologies keeps you a big step ahead of assisted living care. The CTF has great mind-boggling classes this summer at our cabin above Lake City that will head you in a straight and upward path.

Have a new digital camera? Learn how to use it to its fullest capabilities. Make CD-ROMs and DVDs of your travels and hikes. Enhance your appreciation of the scenery that you’re driving past by learning the telltale signs of its geologic past. Or you can emulate Winston Churchill’s late blooming career as an oil painter. You might have that hidden talent.

And wildflowers. Have you ever caught yourself talking to flowers and admonishing them for growing where they shouldn’t be? Most of them have an organized sense of where they can grow in elevation. WHY? We’ll tell you the answers to your most misunderstood questions when you attend one of the CTF classes.

Most classes still have vacancies and you can take your pick. Consider Kids’ Natural World, storytelling (and become a spellbinder), both regular and digital photography, geology, oil painting, wildflowers and, last of all, climb some high mountains in your study of the ecosystems. All these are guaranteed to help make a healthy mind and a memorable week. And it’s a lot less expensive than medical care.

Call Class Registrar Charlotte Briber, 303-526-0809, for class information and to register.

2004 Outdoor Workshops

June 13 – 19
June 20 – 26
June 27 – July 3
July 4 – 10
July 11 – 17
July 18 – 24
July 25 – 31
August 1 – 7
August 8 – 14
August 15 – 21

Kids’ Natural World
The Art of Storytelling
Outdoor Landscape Painting in Watercolor or Oil
Geology of the San Juans
High Country Photography
Wildflowers of the San Juans
Alpine and Sub-Alpine Wildflowers
Watercolor in the San Juans
Colorado Trail High Altitude
High Country Digital Photography

High Altitude Class:
August 8 – 14

This summer, a new class has been added to the summer program at the Education Center in the San Juans near Lake City. The class will consist of a series of daily non-technical hikes, each visiting a high peak in the area. The summits will include local 14ers Handies, Redcloud, and Sunshine peaks as well as some lesser-known and unnamed summits in the area. Map, compass, and GPS skills will be taught as part of the class.

Participants should have good hiking shoes and be prepared to be outside in the elements for extended periods of time. A gear list will be sent to registrants. This class will include strenuous activity. Instructors: Jerry Brown and Connie Wian. To register contact Charlotte Briber at 303-526-0809 or the CTF office at 303-384-3729, or ctf@coloradotrail.org.
One Dozen Reasons Why to Sign Up for a Crew

An inexpensive Rocky Mountain High that no amount of money can buy
The famished appetite that savors every morsel of food in the mountain air setting
The camaraderie that flows around the evening campfire
The shedding of pounds and flexing of unused muscles
The companionship of working together on a singular project
At days end, a tired body savoring a cool drink

The inner soul reverberating to the shedding of inhabitation
Forgetting your everyday cares to an inner peace
The joy of pure laughter at Friday night's talent show
The making of new friends, shedding tears at departure
The feeling of pride and accomplishment for others to enjoy
A week spent working on the Trail is a pristine lifetime memory

— Gudy Gaskill

TRAIL CREWS WITH OPENINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crew #</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Crew Name</th>
<th>Description of Work and Base Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WE02</td>
<td>June 18 – 20</td>
<td>Buffalo Creek</td>
<td>Drive In: Work will consist of rerouting two small sections of the Trail to eliminate a steep rocky section. Camp will be in a nice wooded area right next to the Trail. Crew will meet Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. Elevation 7,500 ft. Segment 3.</td>
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<td>South Platte RD</td>
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<td>Stan Ward</td>
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<td>303-770-4382</td>
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<td>0104</td>
<td>June 12 – 19</td>
<td>Mt. Elbert Trailhead</td>
<td>Drive In: Trail construction and maintenance north from the Twin Lakes, Mt. Elbert trailhead near the base of beautiful Mt. Elbert, Colorado's highest 14er. Work include replacing some small bridges. Elevation 10,500 ft. Segment 11.</td>
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<td>Leadville RD</td>
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<td>Phil Smith</td>
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<td>303-688-9638</td>
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<tr>
<td>0204</td>
<td>June 12 – 19</td>
<td>Tennessee Pass Trailhead</td>
<td>Drive In: Camp at beautiful Tennessee Pass and work both directions on the CT. We will improve The Trail south and close an old road north toward the coke ovens. Beautiful views in all directions. Elevation 10,500 ft. Segments 8 and 9.</td>
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<td>Leadville RD</td>
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<td>Art Rankin</td>
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<td>303-394-1669</td>
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<tr>
<td>0404</td>
<td>June 26 –</td>
<td>Copper Mountain/Reroute</td>
<td>Drive In: This crew is comprised of Landmark Volunteer students but we will accept a few additional volunteers who enjoy working with young and energetic volunteers from across the country. The students will be working with us for two weeks. Elevation 10,000 ft. Work will consist of trail maintenance on Segment 8.</td>
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<td>0404</td>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Dillon RD</td>
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<td>0504</td>
<td>June 26 –</td>
<td>Columbia Creek Area</td>
<td>Backpack In: The Trail needs work involving minor rerouting and small bridge replacement in this area. We will backpack approximately 4 miles to a nice meadow for camp. Work will be near the camp. Elevation 11,300 ft. Segment 12.</td>
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<td>0504</td>
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<td>Paul Smith</td>
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<td>719-471-8937</td>
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<tr>
<td>0604</td>
<td>July 3 – 10</td>
<td>Copper Mountain</td>
<td>Drive In: Same description as Crew 0404. Segment 8.</td>
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<td>0804</td>
<td>July 10 – 17</td>
<td>Gold Hill to Miners Creek</td>
<td>Drive In: Work will be in the area of Miners Creek on the approach to the Ten Mile Range. This is a nice wooded area with beautiful views of the valleys around Dillon Reservoir. The road to camp is rough and may require high-clearance vehicles. Elevation 10,000 ft. Segment 7.</td>
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<td>0804</td>
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<td>1004</td>
<td>July 10 – 17</td>
<td>Kokomo Pass</td>
<td>Jeep In: Camp will be located above timberline near Kokomo Pass with wonderful views toward the Ten Mile and Mosquito ranges. Work will consist of upgrading and rebuilding The Trail between Searle and Kokomo Passes to bring this section of trail to our standards. Elevation 12,000 ft. Segment 8.</td>
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<td>Julie Mysdag</td>
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<td>303-469-2213</td>
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<td>1104</td>
<td>July 17 – 24</td>
<td>Indian Trail Ridge</td>
<td>Jeep In: Same description as Crew 0904 above. Segment 27.</td>
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<td>Columbine RD</td>
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<td>303-986-3707</td>
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<td>1204</td>
<td>July 24 – 31</td>
<td>Lost Park Meadows</td>
<td>Backpack In: Camp will be about 3 miles from the trailhead parking at the top of beautiful Lost Park. Work will consist of building floating boardwalks to improve conditions in the infamous Lost Park Bog as well as other drainage remediation projects. Elevation 10,300 ft. Segment 4.</td>
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<td>South Park RD</td>
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<td>Chuck Lawson</td>
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<td>303-793-0144</td>
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<td>1304</td>
<td>August 7 – 14</td>
<td>Upper So. Fooses Creek</td>
<td>Backpack In: Crew will backpack up South Fooses Creek 31/2 miles to a beautiful meadow just below timberline. Work will consist of rerouting a section of steep rocky trail and putting in switchbacks to ease the climb to the Continental Divide. Wonderful views to the north. Elevation 11,500 ft. Segment 15.</td>
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<td>1304</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bill Bloomquist</td>
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<td>303-816-2465</td>
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<tr>
<td>1504</td>
<td>August 7 – 14</td>
<td>Upper Razor Park</td>
<td>Drive In: Camp one-half hour west of Saguache FS station. Vehicles will transport crew each day to within a mile of work site. Trail rehabilitation on the Continental Divide. Elevation 11,000 – 12,000 ft. Segment 17.</td>
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Still Time... Sign Up for a Supported Trek

Spaces are still available for this summer’s supported hiking treks! Treks offer a great way to hike five days on The Colorado Trail without having to carry a heavy backpack or cook your own meals after a hard day of hiking.

You can sign up for any of the six five-day hiking treks with the first one scheduled to begin at Kenosha Pass on June 20 and the last one to end in Durango on July 31. Each hiking week is limited to twelve hikers. The cost of $740 per person includes all meals, guides, support crew, support vehicles, community camp, logistics and shuttle transportation.

Hikers who have made these treks in the past have given rave reviews! The supported trek program is in its thirteenth year of operation. If you like to hike and camp in the outdoors, this is the program for you! If you want to retire that heavy backpack and don’t want to plan menus, cook your food and worry about finding provisions and handling logistics for five days of back country hiking, these are even greater reasons you will like supported trekking. And of course, you will be overwhelmed by the magic of The Colorado Trail.

For information and to sign up for a CT trek, visit the Colorado Trail Foundation’s Web site at www.coloradotrail.org and click on summer programs. To get information on trek availability, please call the Colorado Trail Foundation trek managers, Lisa or Pete Turner on their cell phone at 970-749-1314. Before you know it, the hiking season will be over.

2004 Trek Schedule

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<th>Section</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>From Path to Path</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section 2</td>
<td>June 20 - June 26</td>
<td>Kenosha Pass to Camp Hale</td>
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<td>Section 3</td>
<td>June 27 - July 3</td>
<td>Camp Hale to Clear Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 4</td>
<td>July 4 - July 10</td>
<td>Clear Creek to Marshall Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 5</td>
<td>July 11 - July 17</td>
<td>Marshall Pass to San Luis Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 6</td>
<td>July 18 - July 24</td>
<td>San Luis Pass to Molas Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 7</td>
<td>July 25 - July 31</td>
<td>Molas Pass to Durango</td>
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“On the Cutting Edge”

A Message from Gudy Gaskill

How many times have you heard the expression “On the cutting edge?” Does it convey thoughts of walking on the edge where with one slip you could go down? Or does it bring to mind a change, whether from a new medical device or a change in your future? You are right up to your limit and point of no return.

We at the Colorado Trail Foundation are always on the cutting edge with our volunteers who do countless tasks in getting a job done. Without you there would not be a Colorado Trail. It would soon fall into disrepair from overuse, misuse and neglect.

You are our executives in dirty shirts and grimy hands, but you are still our executives and we couldn’t run the show without you. We’d love to have you consider being a leader (no executive pay). You are the backbone of The Colorado Trail. The future is in your hands.

Enjoying the Trail
Adopt-a-Trail Program

The Adopt-A-Trail Committee completed its mailing of forms and information to all adopters so they can start their work as soon as the weather cooperates. A huge thanks goes to Chuck Lawson and Ernie Norris, “virtual” committee members, for printing awesome maps for all adopters. And many thanks to Suzanne and Marian in the office for getting everything printed and Liz and Julie for helping stuff envelopes. Adopters will hopefully get to use tools cached in new sheds along the Trail in a new program George Miller is working on.

Our Adopter Get-Together in Leadville is less than two months away! We hope to meet lots of adopters on June 25. We’ll be getting together to share stories and advice, and have fun! See pg. 12 for details. Please bring photos for our CT Adopters 30th Anniversary display. And remember the 30th Anniversary celebration in Buena Vista on September 25. This will be a real event!

We have new adopters for seven sections, but still have three sections open:

Section 29  Sargents Mesa to Lujan Creek Road
Section 34  Spring Creek Pass to Big Buck Creek
Section 35  Big Buck Creek to Wager Gulch

We are constantly working on ideas for making the program better and more responsive to those involved, from the possibility of emergency crews to more information on the website. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact AAT Coordinator Janet Czyzewski at (303) 933-3066, wldjc@juno.com or The CTF office, (303) 384-3729. ctf@coloradotrail.org.

An Adopter Calls for Help

Diane Parker is looking for volunteers to help her on a one-day work crew the first week in August on her adopted section at Georgia Pass. You would meet her early in the morning in Jefferson and drive on up to the Pass. Objective: get the project done and then go for a hike. You’ll need to bring rain gear, brown bag, work gloves and, maybe, your camera. Please call Diane at 303-364-2858 to volunteer.

Irene Cazor, 1917 – 2004

The Colorado Trail Foundation lost one of its longest devoted volunteers with her death on May 15th. In the mid-seventies, Irene and one of her grandchildren volunteered to work on one of the first trail crews sponsored by the Colorado Mountain Club. The crew worked on the then undisclosed beginning of The Colorado Trail.

In those days Irene cooked over a campfire, lashed branches together between trees for tables and kept the crew happy with her everlasting humor. For the next twenty years Irene volunteered each summer as a leader and an extraordinary cook. Her “sock-it-to-em” coffee was a trademark. Loved by all who crossed her path, she had a loyal following. After retirement from working with trail crews, Irene was a helping hand with whatever needed to be done. Her mailing parties at her house became social events for the CTF.

She touched our hearts and our souls and will leave a void in the Foundation. The winds will whisper her name and the breezes will carry it on. An era has passed but the memory will linger forever.

– Gudy Gaskill
Heritage Trails Foundation of the Roundup Riders of the Rockies Makes Tool Caches Available to Adopt-A-Trail Program

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Trails Foundation of the Roundup Riders of the Rockies, adopters of The Colorado Trail will be able to use REAL TOOLS. Six tool caches of Pulaskis, McLeods, pick mattocks, shovels, loppers, bow saws and rock bars will be housed in Rubbermaid sheds. Each shed will be located at a strategic location across the state, generally at Forest Service work yards. Adopters will have easy access, with most sheds accessible 24/7 so that you can pickup tools to use at any time. Each cache will hold enough tools to equip up to 10 or 12 workers.

We realize that many of you have your own personal tools, but we are trying to make your job as easy as possible with tools in good condition and available for your use. We will keep a self-checkout sheet in the shed so that you can help us control the tools and keep from losing them. Let the office know of any damaged or lost tools and they will pass the word for repair or replacement. Currently, sites have been established for Bailey, Leadville and Durango. Salida/Buena Vista, White River and Saguache are in progress.

Adopters who live close to the caches are encouraged to sign on as Shed Stewards. The responsibility of the Stewards will be to maintain the sheds, keep track of the tools and make arrangements for sharpening and other needs as they arise. Adopters wanting to become Shed Stewards or needing information on shed access should contact Janet Czyzewski (wildje@juno.com / 303-933-3066) or the office (303-384-3729 / ctf@coloradotrail.org).

Thank you Roundup Riders of the Rockies for supporting our Adopters during our 30th Anniversary.

![Crew Leader Ted La May (left) and CTF Board member Ernie Norris at the new adopter tool cache located at the USFS work site north of Durango.](image)

Trail Signage under Study

The CT Trail Signage Project, led by Julie Mesdag, continues to gather information (photos and feedback) from CT users and volunteers. We have a binder jammed with photos sent in by folks like you. The goal is to finish the inventory phase this summer.

As you use the CT in the coming months, please help us complete our inventory. Forward to the office photos of signage, including such details as orientation of the sign (photographed while traveling east or west), the Segment and mile point, and GPS coordinates, if available.

This fall volunteers will evaluate the reports of existing signage along the CT and recommend improvements to the Board of Directors. Please contact the Foundation office if you would like to help with the review and recommendations for changes in CT signage.
Smokejumpers Take on a CT Bridge Project

by Carl Gidlund

A group of veteran smokejumpers will be repaying part of their debt to the land this fall by building a footbridge over Cochetopa Creek.

“Many of us in the National Smokejumper Association worked our way through college back in the ‘40s, ‘50s and ‘60s by jumping out of airplanes to fight forest fires,” explains Jon McBride, coordinator of trails programs for the NSA. “Some went into forestry, and others entered all sorts of professions, from law to construction to banking. But we still have a couple of things in common: we love the wild country and we owe it for providing us the money to go to school.”

The Association includes some 1,600 current and veteran jumpers, a fair percentage of the 5,000 men and women who have “put their knees in the breeze” over forest fires since the first fire jump into Idaho’s Nez Perce National Forest in 1940.

Five years ago a former Missoula smokejumper named Art Jukkala launched the organization’s trail maintenance program. He recognized that the Forest Service was not maintaining trails as it had in the past. For example, only 800 miles of trail in Montana’s huge Bob Marshall Wilderness were being worked, compared with nearly 4,000 miles in the 1930s.

Art recruited 18 veteran jumpers as volunteers, and in July 1999, his crew hiked into “The Bob” to begin restoration of a long-neglected trail. Five days into the job Jukkala died of a heart attack. McBride took his place as project leader and in the years since, NSA members have cleared some 261 miles of trail.

“The program has grown more popular each year, both with the Forest Service and our members,” McBride says. As of early May, 81 men and women smokejumpers have volunteered for this summer’s trail work, including a dozen for The Colorado Trail bridge project in September.

An Encouraging Note....

Hiker and “Friend of the Trail” Nancy J. Butler of South Fork, CO, recently wrote to the CTF about the Trail and getting through difficult treatments for breast cancer. She said we could share some of her thoughts.

“As I wove through the complications of my own diagnosis and simultaneously reviewed my life, hiking The Colorado Trail was and is one of my happiest and biggest life accomplishments. Sometimes when I was getting my chemo treatments I would close my eyes and put myself back on the Trail. The wildflowers at Kokomo Pass, the serenity of Rainbow Lake in the Collegiate Peaks, my three days of complete aloneness in the Cochetopa Hills, meeting Jonathan Krauss and John Land as we approached the San Juans, the frequent thunderstorms in the San Juans, the lushness of the Rico Mountains, and the last two days downhill into Durango. These memories got me through some tough treatments.”
President's Corner
Continued from page 2

This past summer a similar thing happened. Steve Staley, a finance manager, mountaineer and long-time CT adopter, solo hiked from Denver to Durango and learned about the Foundation along the way. He says he had such a tremendous experience that he wanted to give something back to the Trail. It was the Trail that motivated him to volunteer and he's currently serving in key capacities on the CTF Board.

Yes, it's common for folks who experience the rare beauty and solitude that The Colorado Trail offers in abundance to want to somehow pay back. Many can only do so through their generous donations to help keep the Foundation functioning. Others come forward to offer their time and their skills. In such ways, after 30 years, The Colorado Trail has become largely "self-sustaining."

Board Planning Retreat

The CTF Board of Directors holds two regularly-scheduled meetings each year—the annual meeting in January and another meeting in the fall. This year the fall meeting will be held on September 25 in Buena Vista in conjunction with our 30th Anniversary celebration.

In addition, the Board traditionally holds a spring retreat to discuss long-range issues, set goals and make up a year-long "to do list." This spring our retreat was in Dillon where we deliberated two days on issues concerning the Trail and Foundation.

Fifteen members of the Board participated—Bill Bloomquist, Jerry Brown, Carolyn Burtard, Marilyn Eisele, Gudy Gaskill, Tom Gramling, Glenn Kepler, George Miller, Pat Nagorka, Ernie Norris, Steve Staley, Ernie Werren, our host Bill Manning and I. Our Volunteer Coordinators Marian Phillips and Suzanne Reed also attended (and kept us fed) as did Past-President Merle McDonald.

Greg Warren, our liaison with the U.S. Forest Service, also participated and was especially helpful in making it a productive work session. His insights to the Forest Service’s rules and objectives were valuable in making realistic CT plans.

Our number one goal remains to make ALL of the Trail non-motorized. Currently about 100 miles is either on roadways or on Trail sections where motorized vehicles are allowed. Merle McDonald is spearheading this effort. As we reported in the last issue of Tread Lines, moving the Trail out of the Pole Creek drainage and the roadway to Beartown is part of the strategy.

We're lucky to have such a dedicated group of hands-on Board members guiding operations of the CT Foundation.
The Colorado Trail Store

288 pages, 46 color maps, 6x9 format, softcover $22.95

Along The Colorado Trail, color photographs by John Fielder, journal by
M. John Fayhee, 128 pages, 9x12 format $25.00

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

Foundation, 48 pages, 4x6 format, 33 color maps, paperbound $5.95

The Colorado Trail Cookbook, 300 recipes, stories, illustrations, 7x9 format $15.00

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 $10.00

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, 4¾" high triangular plastic marker used to sign The CT
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 $2.50 $9.75 $17.75

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. Size Color $11.00

The Colorado Trail Mock T’s: 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 $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

Subtotal: $93.95

Sales Tax: Colorado Residents add 2.9% tax

Shipping Information:
Name:
Street:
City: Zip:
State: Zip:
E-mail: Phone:

Credit Card Information:
MC/VISA 
Expiration Date 
Name on Card (print) 
Signature 

Shipping: if your order is:
$0.00 – $8.00 add $2.00
$8.01 – $20.00 add $5.00
over $20.00 add $6.00

Total Enclosed: $93.95

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

Tread Lines Summer 2004  15
I am a Friend! I want to support The Colorado Trail Foundation. 
Here is my annual contribution as a “Friend of The Colorado Trail.”

Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund $ ____
Contributor $25 □  Sustainer $50 □  Sponsor $75 □  Partner $100 □
Patron $250 □  Guardian $500 □  Benefactor $1,000+ □  Corporate $ □
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.
□ I will help out with office and other volunteer activities.

Name(s): ___________________________________________ MC/VISA #: __________
Address: ___________________________________________ Expiration Date: __________
City: ______________________________________________ Name on Card: __________
State: ______________________ Zip ________________ Please Print
Telephone: _________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________ Signature: __________

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

The Colorado Trail
Celebrating our 30th Anniversary
Volunteers Have Made It Happen!