President's Corner

by Gudy Gaskill

What a sizzler this summer has been in ordinarily cool Colorado. I can’t ever remember seeing South Park looking so brown so early in the summer. Generally, it’s a sea of green for miles and miles of driving, a pleasant gentle feast for the eyes. With the fire ban in effect, we miss a part of the historical evenings around the campfire. Nevertheless, crew #4 had rainy weather all week, with a lot of slipping and

Continued on page 2

John Fielder/Julie Davis Medley

**John Fielder**, nationally known nature photographer, and **Julie Davis**, nationally known musician and storyteller, will collaborate for an evening of entertainment, joining their talents to delight your senses with a poignant and moving story in pictures, music, and reflections about The Colorado Trail. The event will be held the evening of October 24, 1998, in the auditorium at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado, 710 10th Street. It has been given rave notices and will be a highlight of our fall programs. John and Julie will be there to autograph copies of their books and tapes after the program. Tickets can be purchased by check or cash, in advance or at the door. Time and ticket price are being determined. Call Denise Wright at the CTF office ((303) 384-3729 ext. 113) for further details. The event is sure to please all.

Prior to the event, join us for an Open House at Dave and Gudy Gaskill’s home, 548 Pine Song Trail, Golden, Colorado, beginning at 4:00 p.m. To RSVP and get directions, call (303) 526-0809.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trail-A-Bration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic hike</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail crew reunion</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th anniversary</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Martin Murphey</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit trail ride</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Kepler</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Store</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contd from page 1

sliding in the mud. Perhaps we shouldn’t mind the hot weather and take our chances on what nature provides.

Trail Crews and Leaders

The crews are all progressing well, completing their seemingly impossible assignments ahead of schedule. It’s refreshing to see how many of the younger generation are volunteering their services on the trail crews. It almost guarantees that little food is left over at the end of the week, which reduces the load on the pack animals. The amount of work that is completed by such eager hands is truly amazing. A Big Thanks!

Leader Phil Smith, along with his wife Mae, is leading four crews this summer. Joe Slack and I are each leading two, meaning more than half of the crews are being led by three leaders. We are actively seeking new leaders and would like you to step forward yourself or recommend someone with whom you worked who seemed like a good candidate. The CTF will put on a leader training session early next year, conducted by two experts in their field: Joe Slack, with his organizational skills with people and paperwork, and Ted LaMay, with his expertise in trail layout and trail construction. This is an opportunity to learn a lot in a short period of time in a friendly atmosphere. Put on your thinking caps!

For those of you who remember past leader Jim Ray—he is hospitalized at the Iliff Care Center, 6060 E. Iliff Avenue, in Denver. He would welcome your cards.

Many of you have called to ask how Merle McDonald is coping. Nothing gets Merle down. His smile still radiates across his face, and his determination to beat the odds is stronger than ever. He’s doing great and just came back from a month-long trip to Washington. While there, he did some sailing with friends and plans to go back in the fall for some serious sailing. He’s back to jogging five miles a day and loves the RV that he and Uta bought for traveling. Merle sends his greetings to all of his many friends. His daughter Anne, our former volunteer bookkeeper, also recovering, is back at work and putting on some weight.

Former leader Irene Cazer has been confined for weeks with an infection in her lower leg. Although better now, it was a nuisance. Irene just isn’t the kind to sit still and twiddle her thumbs, waiting for an improvement. She just recently hosted a collating party to package more CT topo maps.

Bridge Update

The South Platte bridge work started July 23rd and will be well under way by the time

The business address is

The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th St., Suite 210
Golden, CO 80401-1022
(303) 384-3729 ext. 113
(24-hour voice mail)
(303) 384-3743 (Fax)
Office hours M-F, 9-5, Mountain Standard Time
P.O. Box 260876
Lakewood, CO 80226-0876

Pres. Gudy Gaskill
(303) 526-0809
V.P. George Miller
(719) 685-1278
Sec. Stan Ward
(303) 770-4382
Treas. Sarah J. Knight
(303) 733-1502

This edition of Tread Lines was compiled and edited by Susan Junkin, George and Lila Miller, and Denise Wright.
you receive this issue of *Tread Lines*. The next hurdle will be to lift the bridge in place on August 23rd, and we will walk across on September 1st. Ward Construction was the low bidder, and they were ready to start immediately. The contract with the Department of Natural Resources from the matching funds program through the State Trails Fund was recently signed. That provided a green light to start spending money. We can dream that crew #12, with leader *Gene Cash*, will finish the project the last week in August. *Lori Malcomb*, of the South Platte Ranger District, has been instrumental in getting all of the permits pulled together and signed. It was an exasperating job that she diligently pursued. We present you with the *HOT PEN AWARD*.

Kudos to volunteer *Morris Borene*, retired engineer, for working on the total bridge project, going to countless meetings with the many agencies involved, working up the bid contracts for the forms, interviewing and choosing a contractor, and then working with the contractor to make sure that all of the requirements were met. Morris had help from *Stan Ward*, *Merle McDonald*, *George Miller*, *Ernie Werren*, and me (on the grant application), but the main burden of the preliminaries was on his shoulders. A job well done! Did you think that the bridge would ever happen?

**CTF Equipment**

*George Miller* has worked hard to get all of the equipment cleaned and in top shape. He now has three trailers with special compartments into which a total base camp can be put. After a crew is finished, the camp is broken down and put into the trailer, ready to be pulled to the next campsite. No more loading and unloading of trucks and storing the equipment in a dry place until it is passed on to the next crew working in the same approximate area. Even the hitch is stored in the trailer. George is filled with ingenious ideas. I for one was thrilled to have a new four-burner stainless-steel stove in camp, replacing the old three-burner stoves with the breakable cast-iron legs. How many rocks have propped up those old broken legs?

Thanks to *Greg Zolnick* for finding an immaculate used four-wheel-drive Chevy short-bed pickup to use as a support vehicle on the treks. Not only did Greg buy it, but also he installed a new transmission in it, checked out the whole body, and then sold it to the CTF for half of what he had invested in it. Greg says that it’s a tax write-off. We say it’s the work of a Good Samaritan. It’s exactly what *George Miller* was looking for to get the equipment over the narrow four-wheel-drive passes with the sharp hairpin turns. George had thought of having the van converted into a four-wheel-drive vehicle, but the cost was prohibitive, so this little pickup fit the bill exactly. Greg overhauled the 20-year-old pickup several years ago (the one that I drive, which was a gift from Ma Bell 10 years ago), and it is still up and running.

THANKS seems so small for such a big job, but it comes from the heart. Thank you.

**Benefit Concert**

In our last *Tread Lines*, we were just dreaming of the possibility of a benefit concert by Michael Martin Murphey. The dream became a reality on July 2 at Silver Creek, Colorado, site of the 1998 Westfest celebration. What a memorable night it was for me. I’ve had lunch with a couple of U.S. presidents in the past, but this evening topped it all in emotional surprises! The sincerity of the efforts of Michael Martin Murphey and his trail-riding friends to help The Colorado Trail financially was powerful medicine. I was too numb to remember much about the stage full of great people all singing together because my heart was pounding so hard and my head was floating in the clouds, as I came to the realization that after 25 years, we, the “trail” people, had found our angels—Michael Martin Murphey and his loyal friends. What an incredible end to a wonderful concert! I still need a tethered line to hold me down.
New Trail-A-Bration Dates Set

An overnight campout, a BBQ, and a hike the following day have been rescheduled for August 29–30. All participants in the six-week hike that inaugurated The Colorado Trail completion 10 years ago are invited. Please contact Julie Mesdag if you have not received an invitation. Her number is (303) 816-0133. The hike will start from the Avalanche parking lot in the Salida District.

Historic Hike, Saturday, September 5

We can have our Labor Day BBQ a couple of days early! Come join Nora Jacquez and our historic train and Camp Hale guides as they tell you the history of the area. We have a four-and-a-quarter mile downhill walk. Meet at Tennessee Pass at 10:30 a.m. and be back to your cars by 5:00 p.m. The CTF is “cooking” up the BBQ for CTF Friends only. We’ll use the van to bring you back to the pass. For reservations, call Nora at (303) 202-1947.

Fielder/Davis Medley

Mark Saturday, October 24, 1998, as another red-letter day: Open House at the Gaskills’ at 4:00 p.m., followed by the John Fielder/Julie Davis medley that evening. See page 1.

Trail Crew Reunion, Saturday, September 12

All participants in the summer trail crews are invited to join the fun at the Mount Vernon Country Club picnic grounds.

This is a potluck, so bring anything that you like. We will supply the cold drinks and the hamburgers, paper plates, and utensils. Bring your stories, your pictures, and your sneakers to take a local walk.

To get to Mount Vernon Country Club (MVCC), go west on I-70 to exit 254. Turn north and go under the MVCC sign. Take the next gravel road on the left (Centennial trail). Watch for the sign at the bottom of the hill. Call (303) 526-0809 to let Charlotte Briber know if you are coming so we can plan on the amount of hamburger to purchase.

25th Anniversary

The date has been set for the 25th year celebration: June 5th, 1999, on Lookout Mountain on National Trails Day. (That makes it easy to remember.) The place of the festivities will be Mount Vernon Country Club. Once again, mark your calendar. Watch for details in upcoming issues of Tread Lines. If you would like to work on a committee to make this a successful and memorable occasion, don’t hesitate to call Gudy at (303) 526-2721.

Fall Issue of Tread Lines

Remember to gather your tall tales, anecdotes, photographs, and anything else you can think of regarding Merle McDonald for the fall issue of Tread Lines, which will be dedicated to him. Send them to Susan M. Junkin, 801 E. Dale St., Colorado Springs, CO, 80903, or e-mail them to SMJARK@aol.com.
I need to reminisce a bit to tell this story. It was only about 10 years ago when we received a gift of $100 from a FRIEND of The Colorado Trail. It was the biggest private donation that we had received except for a couple of memorial bequests, so it was special. Then over the next few years, more people contributed $100, and even $500. Three years ago, we received our first $1,000 contribution, and last year there were several more. To give to The Colorado Trail is such an intangible thing. One really doesn’t receive anything of a material nature in return. However, the mental and emotional return cannot be measured. The joy and the beauty of the trail. The knowledge that you are preserving a way of life that is fast disappearing as the subdivisions encroach upon the foothills. A wilderness trail that leaves an impact upon your soul as you return to the fast-moving stream of the everyday world. It is a trail of dreams and sunsets, fast-moving storms, and flowers cascading down the mountainsides. Of clean, pure air and sounds of tumbling rivers and streams. It is steeped in history and laden with geologic turmoil.

The many friends of The Colorado Trail who have contributed to its premier condition, through hard work and financial assistance, are all CT angels, dancing till dawn in the deep woods and mountain meadows, enjoying the trail and the friends they’ve made, and cherishing the experiences. May you dance with us forever!

Among those angels is Michael Martin Murphey. He comes to you and asks what he can do for you. Ideas tumble forth in fast rapidity. Each idea has such a magnitude of sums attached to it that you smile politely but inwardly know that this is a pipe dream. Months pass and you hear nothing as he is in Nashville cutting a new disc and on the road with engagements. Suddenly, six weeks before Westfest, you get a call, and the green light is on. There is a mad scramble to get some belated invitations sent, working with Willard Forman (former owner of Copper Mountain Stables and dinner host to several crews working in the Searle Pass area) to put together a Silent Auction event to run parallel with Westfest. A heartfelt thanks to Willard for acquiring from his friends most of the items that were auctioned off. Willard led a special group of horse riders (including Michael and wife Mary) from Waterton Canyon to Kenosha Pass prior to the special CT benefit concert. Next year they will ride the next segment of The Colorado Trail.

The concert was memorable and made very special by Michael. The music was dynamic and gracious, the atmosphere was friendly and easygoing (even when the lights went out), and the crowd was receptive. Those of you who couldn’t make it missed a great show! It’s a must for next year. Maybe we’ll rent a

Continued on page 6
Benefit Trail Ride
by Gudy Gaskill

Willard Forman, former owner of the Copper Mountain Stables, headed up the Michael Martin Murphey benefit trail ride, a five-day ride from Waterton Canyon to Kenosha Pass. Riders came from all over the United States to participate in the ride. Beautiful weather, great food, good friends, great singing, and a wonderful time were had by all. Claire Gamble helped with the transportation, loading, and saddling of the horses before the ride. Pam Bode, Lori Malcomb, and Steve Priest from the South Platte District joined the group the first night for a chuckwagon dinner and a talk about the Buffalo Creek fire. Gudy Gaskill, Denise Wright, and storyteller Julie Davis also attended the chuckwagon dinner and were entertained by Michael’s songs.

During the concert, Michael Martin Murphey announced that he and his friend Bob “Fun” Zinn had decided to form a special foundation for the benefit of maintaining The Colorado Trail, using the interest received from the fund to finance the maintenance. The amount of money that had already been pledged that evening was unbelievable—so unbelievable that I became a doubting Thomas and chose not to believe what I had heard. Since then, all kinds of rumors have been spread. We’ll know more about it by the next Tread Lines or at the trail crew reunion.

Michael's new CD is called Cowboy Songs Four. I am a classics buff, but I love this new work.

Glenn Kepler: Our New Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

Glenn Kepler has taken over Merle McDonald’s Adopt-A-Trail duties and has been in touch with all of the 52 section adopters. Merle left excellent records and forms, so the job was a bit easier. Glenn’s next task will be to become familiar with the whole trail to be able to visualize where the troublesome areas are. If you find trees down—and there are many this year—or other trouble spots, vandalized or lost signs, eager beaver ponds and bogs, eroded areas, or trenching from heavy use, please call Glenn at (303) 275-7207 (day) or (303) 986-3707 (evening) or e-mail him at Glenn_Kepler@smtp.mms.gov.

Continued from page 5
The Colorado Trail Store

All proceeds provide important support for The Colorado Trail.

Send Orders to
The Colorado Trail Foundation
P.O. Box 260876
Lakewood, CO 80226-0876

Text by Randy Jacobs, Color Photographs by John Fielder  22.00 _____

Along The Colorado Trail by John Fielder and M. John Fayhee
100 color photographs, 128 pages, 9” x 12” format  Hardcover  33.00 _____
Softcover  22.00 _____

Day Hikes on The Colorado Trail by Jan Robertson
35 color photographs, 48 pages, 4” x 9” format  6.50 _____

“The Colorado Trail,” Recording by Carol Johnson  5.75 _____

Topographic waterproof maps (1996 Revision), 11” x 17” format, 1:50,000 scale
Full set: 29 maps, Denver to Durango  20.00 _____
Northeast set: 16 maps, Denver to Marshall Pass  12.00 _____
Southwest set: 13 maps, Marshall Pass to Durango  12.00 _____

CT Note Cards and Envelopes
One dozen in 10 assorted designs by Jerry Albright  4.45 _____

CT Completion Patches (embroidered)
(“I Completed The Colorado Trail”)  3.60 _____

Official pin  2.25 _____

CT T-Shirts

Short Sleeves: New Design; CT map on front; trail segment descriptions, including length and elevation gain, are printed on the back. 100% cotton.
Jade Green  L  XL  12.00 _____
Sky Blue  L  XL  12.00 _____

Long Sleeves: Crew neck and embroidered logo.
Jade Green  L  XL  19.50 _____
Sky Blue  L  XL  19.50 _____

CT Wall Map
Poster, 17 x 24 inches, with trail segments marked.  10.50 _____

CT Golf Cap
Tan genuine pigskin bill, with embroidered logo.  17.50 _____

All prices are listed postpaid.
Colorado residents add 4.3% tax

Subtotal:  
Colo. Tax:  
Total:  

Name

Telephone

Street Address or P.O. Box

Town or City  State  Zip
So Much to be Done!

We make a living by what we get
We make a life by what we give.
Winston Churchill

Yes! I would like to support the Colorado Trail . . . Please accept my annual contribution to
the Colorado Trail Foundation as a "Friend of the Colorado Trail."

- $15.00  Senior/Student
- $25.00  Individual
- $50.00  Family
- $75.00  Contributor
- $100.00 Patron
- $500.00 Supporter

Benefits for Friends of the Colorado Trail include:
Quarterly Newsletter
Periodic Discounts
Discounts on CT Publications
CT Trek Invite
Information of CT functions, meetings and crews

___ I would like to work on a trail crew. Please send information.
___ I would like to adopt a section of the trail to maintain.

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City ______________________________ State __________ Zip ________

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a Colorado Based 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.

710 10th St., Suite 210
Golden, CO 80401-1022

The Foundation invites you to join in making The Colorado Trail
an educational and recreational reality . . .