**Summer Trail Crews**

With signs of fall in the air and the changing of the aspens, we can look back with appreciation on the accomplishments of the summer trail season. We had a total of 13 crews in the field doing maintenance and rerouting. One of our important accomplishments was to eliminate walking on about six miles of four-wheel-drive road in the area between Spring Creek Pass and Carson Saddle. The other projects along the trail continue to improve and keep our trail the premier long-distance hike in Colorado. We owe a large vote of thanks to the leaders and volunteers who continue to devote their time and efforts to this undertaking each summer.

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**An Event to Be Remembered!**

*by Gudy Gaskill*

The **25th Anniversary Celebration** at Mount Vernon Country Club was a gala event, packed with old acquaintances in their best bib and tucker, with happy faces and great anticipation for seeing items on display that have never before been viewed by the public, for learning unknown facts about the CT, and for revisiting the historic years that saw The Colorado Trail to its fruition. There were new videos, a host of panel displays, walls covered with honors and awards, and photo displays of times, crews, and famous faces. The whole Colorado Trail was shown on a colorful series of maps, with a paneled and descriptive legend. The CT was even traced on a relief map, winding its way over mountain passes and along valley floors. It was truly a historic display. Neither these displays nor the anniversary celebration could have been possible without the help of a great many enthusiastic and talented volunteers. Kudos to the follow-

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*Continued on page 3*
Continued from page 1

25th Anniversary

The other major undertaking of the year was the celebration of 25 years of The Colorado Trail. This year marked that milestone in the history of the CT, its inception being in 1974. The celebrations in Golden, Gunnison, and Durango honored Gudy Gaskill for her labor of love and her devotion to the CT and the volunteers who have made it all possible. Without Gudy, it is very likely The Colorado Trail would not exist. Thanks are also due the many volunteers who helped make the celebrations a reality. A list of those who worked on the various parties appears on page 3 and a list of sponsors on page 5.

Resignations

Denise Wright has resigned from the position of Administrator/Volunteer Coordinator. Denise was the first person to hold this position and did an excellent job of establishing the office and setting the direction for its operation. We are sorry to lose her expertise but wish her well in her own business, which is growing and needs her full-time attention. Sarah Knight, the CTF Treasurer, and Darla DeRuiter have resigned from their positions on the board of directors. Their volunteer assistance has also fallen victim to the demands of work in the real world. We wish to thank Denise, Sarah, and Darla for their contributions to the CT and extend our heartfelt best wishes for their future success.

Host Program

This summer we again had Trail Hosts in residence at Spring Creek Pass. This location was covered all summer and into September. This has been a very successful program and has gathered much information on the use of the trail and problems that hikers have encountered. See Jim Miller’s report on page 33.

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**G.P.S. Survey**

Another important achievement this summer was the G.P.S. survey of the trail. This information will be included in our new guidebook, which will be published sometime in the near future. A complete report of the survey begins on page 28.

**Data Book**

For those of you who like to know the detailed information about mileages, elevations, etc., and have it in a very concise and compact form, we now have a data book, which was written by Michael Hibbard and is available through the office or by mail order. See article on page 30.

**Web Page**

Finally, I want to bring your attention to our web page, which is so well crafted and always has the latest information on many aspects of the Trail and the activities of the Foundation. A big thank you to our webmaster, Richard Nolde, for his hard work to bring this valuable resource to all of us.

**Thank you**

In closing, I would like to again thank all the volunteers who have made this such a successful year and to wish all of you a wonderful and happy fall and winter season.

Continued from page 1

...ing volunteers for a job SO WELL DONE! You made it a success.

Thanks to Ken Marshall, who was the overall mastermind and recruiter. He was responsible for personally making the cherry wood bases for the ceramic logos; he chose and designed the commemorative poster, designed and printed the programs, helped Ted La May with the Durango celebration, and wielded a heavy stick from his home town of Durango.

Melanie Barvitski took over for Ken when he was out of town at a critical time, coordinated building displays, and coordinated the display locations with the available space. Paul Beretau was in charge of designing and ordering the Forest Service plaques. Peggy Bracket arranged inventory of items for sale. Lois Cochran composed lyrics for a new song for the 25th Anniversary celebration (“The Dreamers and the Doers”—see page 5), and Rick Tronvig and Dave Good were the official photographers for the event, with two outstanding photo albums for the archives. Dave also put together a new video about the CT. Liz Truitt and Shirley Martin mounted two historic photo displays on wooden panels. The displays were professionally done. Richard Nolde updated the website to include the celebration and helped with deliveries and cleanup. George Miller and Merle McDonald created the outstanding relief map display. Merle also constructed a couple of panels. Tom Hettler created the full-length map and picture display out of plywood, with the back-ground cut into a mountainous panorama. Stan Ward created the excellent South Platte Bridge display, which included construction photos, while Denise Wright and Suzanne Reed were in charge of publicity and registrations. Tracy Esslinger put the awards display together, both on tables, walls, and panels, with Jon Greeneisen helping set up the program. Gudy Gaskill and Ken were in charge of setting up the arrangements, menu, etc., at the country club, as well as hand making all of the ceramic logos, ordering and designing pins, making all the VIP and speaker connections, obtaining door prizes, hand making the special 25th year awards, and other stuff. Thanks also to Dominic Graber for designing and building the beautiful porch chairs, and to Pat Nagorka for being in charge of check-in, sale items, and name tags. Thanks to Phil Smith for printing the name tags on his computer, and to Sharon Freeman for contacting our major benefactors. Thanks to Andy DeNaray for the use of his slide for the poster and to both Lois and Tracy Cochran (and their helpers) for mailing the invitations out. Thanks to Darla DeRuiter for doing such a great job at the Gunnison celebration. And lastly we would like to thank both Carol Johnson and Julie Davis for entertaining us with their stories and songs. Wish there had been more time to hear more!

We are all indebted to the above volunteers for the good time we had. VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!
On Saturday, June 12, revelers gathered above Gunnison to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of The Colorado Trail and the dedication of the Ridgeline Open Space and Trail System. Nearly 100 people joined in the festivities throughout the day.

The event kicked off with a leisurely hike from The CT Spur Trailhead near campus, to the top of the ridge where a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Ridgeline Trail. Local author Mary Anne Tarr welcomed the crowd and provided the background and history of the Ridgeline Open Space and Trail System, which was recently purchased from private owners through pledges of local users, regional entities, and a Great Outdoors Colorado Emergency Grant.

The family of Warren Emory Dennis had owned the Ridgeline land since the early 1920s, when he put a mining claim on it. Dennis’s daughter, Carol Hoagland of Fruita, attended the ceremony. She and her siblings waited for the Gunnison County Trails Commission to raise $92,000 to purchase the property, an important connection for The Colorado Trail Spur, rather than sell out to developers.

The Gunnison Spur stretches 65 miles from Gunnison to join The Colorado Trail where it comes off Hope Pass near Winfield along Clear Creek in the Arkansas River Drainage. Work began on the Spur in 1988 and took 10 summers and nearly 40 trail crews to complete. During the ceremony, CTF President George Miller commented on the efforts of the trail crews and others who made the Spur a reality.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the crowd made their way downhill to refreshments and a raffle. A highlight of the day was when John Sowell, former CTF board member, won a beautiful framed watercolor print, painted and generously donated by Gudy! As a finale, a sign was unveiled for the Ridgeline Open Space and Trail. Much thanks goes to all event sponsors and those who attended!

Words cannot express my feelings of happiness and thankfulness to all of the supporters of The Colorado Trail for my timely gifts at the 25th Anniversary celebration. I’m sure that many of you who were there wondered what could I possibly use at my old age. Well, to break the suspense and to thank the person or persons that came up with the ideas, the gifts were perfect. First of all, there was a THICK full-length Therm-A-Rest on which to rest weary bones at the close of a full day. What a joy that gift has been! I used it for five solid weeks, and each night it was like sleeping on a cloud or a featherbed. I did miss waking up a half-dozen times each night and watching the stars move overhead, but it is a good trade-off! The second gift was a suitcase/backpack on wheels. Someone had just told me about the “newest” in travel comfort. Instead of trying to roll the suitcase over cobblestones and up and down stairwells to catch another train or subway, one just hoists the suitcase on your back, after unzipping the pocket that holds the shoulder straps, and BINGO! It becomes a backpack. It must have been invented by someone who traveled through the same cobblestone streets in Helsinki that I did, when the wheels were constantly hung up or flipped over. Thanks everyone! But the best comes at the last. Dominic Graber presented Dave and me with two wonderful hand-crafted wooden lawn chairs that Dominic had designed and built. We had just the spot for them on our deck. The chairs are so placed that we overlook the city lights of Denver and the foothills in the foreground. As spectacular as the lights are, we feel blessed to live away from them in a mountain setting, and to only look at them. A friend made easy pillows for the back. Do come and try out the chairs for size and comfort. You’re a whiz, Dominic!
A Huge Thank You to
Our 25th Anniversary Sponsors!

The following is a list of the sponsors of the various CTF 25th Anniversary celebrations. Join us in thanking them for their tremendous support!

**Durango**
- B.J. Boucher, Exec. Director
- San Juan Mountains Ass’n
- Richard Ellis, President
- Gardenswartz Sporting Goods
- Robert Lieb
- Durango Threadworks
- Steve Parker
- Burns National Bank
- Kirk Singer
- Backcountry Experience
- Edward Zink
- Mountain Bike Specialists
- George Larsen
- Environmental Management
- Lockheed Martin Astronautics
- Pam Makowski
- Colorado Trading and Clothing Company

**Colorado Springs**
- Bill Manning
- Trails 2000
- Dan Foster
- Mountain Chalet

**Golden**
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- Jeffrey W. Keller
- Asphalt Paving Company

**Denver**
- Mel Mattis
- Pine Needle Mountaineering
- Dr. Eugenia Miller
- Tracy S. Esslinger
- Development Solutions, Inc.

**Gunnison**
- Kelland T. Davis, O.D.
- Dr. Joan Rubino

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“The Dreamers and the Doers”
A Ballad of The Colorado Trail

*by Lois Cochran*

**Refrain:** (repeat after each of 2 verses)

When I’m out upon The Colorado Trail
I know that I am not alone somehow.
I feel the presence of the dreamers and the doers
Who made this trail reality
And who walk along beside me even now.

It started with some dreamers in nineteen seventy-three:
A vision of a trail through Colorado’s high country
Through majestic mountain scenery from Denver south and west
All the way down to Durango, along this country’s crest.
Then the doers started working as they picked up on the dream:
Recruiting help and planning routes, they soon become a team.

*Continued on page 7*
Saturday, June 19, more than 100 Colorado Trail enthusiasts celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the development of The Colorado Trail and honored Gudy Gaskill, the “Mother of the Trail.” The event began with a hike up the trail to Gudy’s Rest and back to the Junction Creek Campground for a picnic supper. More than 25 hikers eagerly joined Gudy for the eight-mile hike.

The program at the picnic started with a recording “The Colorado Trail,” by Carol Johnson, followed by welcoming remarks by Ted La May, CTF board member. Durango City Councilman John Gamble, nephew of longtime supporter of The Colorado Trail Claire Gamble, on behalf of the Durango City Council, proclaimed June 19, 1999, “Colorado Trail Day in Durango.” John then presented Gudy with a plaque prepared by the Durango Parks and Recreation Department honoring her achievements in bringing The Colorado Trail to Durango.

George Miller, President of The Colorado Trail Foundation, gave a brief history of The Colorado Trail and described Gudy’s driving force behind its development. Ted La May introduced CTF board members past and present, including Earl Barker, owner of the Strater Hotel, who was on the first trail board;

George Miller, current president of the board; Paul Wilbert; and Ken Marshall.

Randy Houtz, Columbine District Trail Coordinator, USFS, presented Gudy with a recognition plaque of appreciation from the United States Forest Service. B. J. Boucher, San Juan Mountains Association Executive Director, made a special presentation to Gudy for her undying commitment to the building of The Colorado Trail.

Gudy then described the steps in the planning, building, and maintenance of The Colorado Trail, a 25-year effort unequaled in trails history in Colorado.

Following the picnic supper, Gudy presided over the cutting of the cake provided by Bill Manning, Director of Trails 2000, a group committed to trail building in the Durango area.
But alas the project foundered when funding began to fail. Would the dream become reality? Would there ever be this trail? Both a dreamer and a doer, there was one who wouldn’t quit. Recruiting crews of workers, Gudy Gaskill did her bit. She kept on building trails, refusing to let it fail. Year by year, mile by mile, slowly building The Colorado Trail. It was called the “Trail to Nowhere” by Empire magazine. By then ten years had passed and small progress was seen. Governor Lamm read the story and offered his support. And helped devise a two-year plan to complete this great effort. With Gudy as their leader, fourteen hundred volunteers built nearly sixty miles of trail in the summers of two years. This mighty push provided links to make the trail complete. From Denver to Durango—it was an enormous feat. Volunteers came from every state and many foreign lands. To build a dream, each crew a team, they supplied the many hands required to build a trail so far: a trail of which they’re proud. Their tools: Pulaskis, shovels, boots, rock bars, and McCleod.

From many occupations, from eighties to pre-teens, All had in common a great love for Colorado scenes. They liked being part of something greater than us all. They felt the joy of giving and had good reason to walk tall. So in nineteen eighty-seven, the dream finally came true, But though the trail went all the way, there was still much work to do. So the crews keep right on coming. They love the work they do, The friends they make, the camping out, the lovely vistas too. Now each year the trail attracts a flurry of excited hikers, Scores of horseback riders and a whir of mountain bikers. Its existence is a tribute to the many volunteers: The dreamers and the doers who worked for all those years. The dreamers keep on dreaming, even to this day Of loops and spurs and special treks, and huts along the way. The doers keep on working, maintaining when it’s due, Rerouting and improving, still making dreams come true.

Final refrain after regular refrain the last time: I also feel the presence of a higher power Who guided them and now is guiding me To appreciate the work they did to make the dream come true And I’m thankful for the beauty that I see.

This incorporates some (but not all) of the changes Julie Davis made when she sang the song for the 25th anniversary celebration. Most were minor to make it flow better to the music, but I want to give her credit for “a flurry of excited” hikers and a “whir” of mountain bikers. It has more pizzazz than “innumerable” and “many.” She didn’t use two of the verses, probably in the interest of time, and didn’t use the final refrain. The tune she used was “Old Rosin the Beau,” also known as “Acres of Clams.”
The letter from Ted La May with final instructions for the July 24 crew came last night. FINALLY, it is almost time. After six crews in five years, I missed last year. Something about a jaw broken in two places that was wired shut most of the summer of ’98. Really missed the trail and the people. Anticipation—Inventoried my gear; filled shower bag and left it in the sink overnight to check for leaks; valve works and no leaks; fresh coat of water-proofing on the old boots; rain gear checked for leaks. Sleeping bag is back from the cleaners, eating utensil cleaned, two new pairs of quick-dry pants ready, tent seams resealed, and clothing-equipment piling up on bedroom floor so I do not forget anything. Truck is scheduled for preventive maintenance.

I am speed walking about four miles with ankle weights three to four times a week on city streets. Would like to do several of the many trails along the Missouri River, but new outbreak of a tick disease, every-other-day thunderstorms, and several weeks of 90 degrees and high humidity are discouraging.

Anticipation—July 22, after P.M. on my truck, clean out work tools and softball equipment except for game equipment needed that night. Load except for en route cooler; be sure to put in cassette tapes. Early morning July 23, head west out of the land of high temperatures, high humidity and to the land of friends and home. My definition: home is where you are comfortable and welcome as you are and for what you are. That is THE COLORADO TRAIL.

Not needed—a map. West on I-70 to Oakley, US 40 to Cheyenne Wells, South to US 50, west to La Junta, southwest to Walsenberg on CO 10, and then west on US 160 to the ranger station in Durango. Nearing Walsenberg, the mountains come in view—almost home. I looked at the roster, old friends, and new friends I have not yet met. It has been a long time.

Since this year is quite special, being the CTF’s 25th anniversary, I wanted to express thanks to the several U.S. Forest Service personnel with whom we’ve worked for several years. So my wife and I took a day and met with Jim Jaminet, Sid Hall, and Pete Garcia in Saguache (Rio Grande National Forest) and Loretta McEllhiney in Leadville (San Isabel National Forest), and gave them each a CTF bookmark, poster, window decal, anniversary T-shirt, and 25th Anniversary lapel pin.

Thank You to Forest Service Personnel
from Phil and Mae Smith

Pictured from the left: Pete Garcia, Sid Hall, Mae Smith, Jim Jaminet
Trail Crew #1 Report
June 19–26, 1999
by Phil Smith, Crew Leader

Location: San Isabel National Forest, at the base of Mt. Elbert, near Leadville

This crew began working where our crew there last year left off. We dug ditches on the upper side of the trail to catch the seepage. The ditches are about 8” wide and up to 8” deep. We were glad that it was scheduled early in the summer, because there was still considerable seepage along the trail and we were able to see what needed to be done. One small stream that crossed the trail was worked on to make it flow quickly across the trail, and the rocks below the trail and the one in the trail were pulled out. An unobstructed channel was created. The approaches to the stream were fixed so that bikes and horses could cross, and bikers wouldn’t have a tough time stepping over the stream.

A larger stream crossed and flooded the trail. About 15 yards of trail were a problem for hikers. The team waded in and removed rock from the stream, below the trail and in the trail. The rocks were then used to fill in the low spot on the north side of the stream. The extra dirt we had saved from the reconstructed trail was used to cover the rocks (a type of French drain). The stream’s main channel was reduced to about 3’ wide and was made about a foot deeper. At the south edge, there was a lot of seepage which was channeled to flow straight across the trail. Next year, two culverts, one large and one small, need to be installed and a turnpike over them. I’m working with the ranger there to schedule another full week of trail work next year, as there is still plenty that can be done to improve this section.

We had a great “team” with whom to work! Our ages averaged 62, but we sure got a lot of work done. Those participating were Bruce Armstrong, Bob Ballou, Stan Barnes, Charles Lawson, J.J. Long, Neal Luchtenburg, Jim Parr, Ted Rohweder, Storme Rose, Mae Smith, Amy Young, and me. We had additional help that week, too: One seasonal Forest Service employee and 1 volunteer, plus 5 teens on Thursday. Three of them were from the Job Training Partnership Act (State funded through the Upper Arkansas Council of Governments), and two were with the Youth Conservation Corps (funded by the Federal government).

We camped in a different spot than last year, so we had to shuffle the crew up the hill each day. It was so nice to have a “resident cook” so that when we returned to camp each day, there was a snack waiting for us, and the aroma of a tasty dinner!

One morning, as the crew was ready to head up to the trail, fog developed between our campsite and Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive, and we thought for sure we were in for a rainy day. But as we watched the fog move, we saw a rainbow, then a double rainbow against that bank of fog as it came closer and closer to us. But, lo and behold, the fog soon disappeared and we had a nice day after all!
Trail Crew #2 Report
July 3–10, 1999
by Phil Smith, Crew Leader

Location: Rio Grande National Forest—near Saguache

This crew, like #1, was a great crew with whom to work and fellowship. We were small in number, but we were mighty! Those participating were Bob Ballou, Stan Barnes, Rebecca Brachmann, Clinton Brift, Brad Hayes, Mike Kephart, Charles Miller, Ruth VanDeWitt, Mae Smith, and me.

We have been working in this same area for seven years, this year’s location being identified as Cochetopa Hills—and there’s still more to be done. As always, it is pleasure to work with the Saguache Ranger District, and with Jim Jaminet in particular.

We just continue on from where we left off the year before, and eventually will link up with the trail being reconstructed coming from Lujan Pass. We started where last year’s crew stopped. The crew was able to reconstruct about 1,425 feet of trail. The trail was across a saddle and started up a bad hill (steep, with seven switchbacks). They reconstructed one switchback before time ran out on Friday. I went back three weeks later (when I worked with Crew #12 up that way) to check out this switchback. It was found to be wearing in the wrong spots due to the rains and motor bikers. One of the other adults and I went back and fixed the problem areas (we hope). The remainder of the trail was moving water off like it was designed to do.

Crew Leaders Honored
by Gudy Gaskill

Phil and Mae Smith (Phil as the crew leader, Mae as the crew cook) were honored this summer by the Saguache Ranger District. Jim Jaminet, Recreational Ranger for the district, awarded Phil and Mae with a beautiful clock plaque to honor their longtime commitment to the Saguache Ranger District. With the clockface on the left side and the inscription “Thanks for your volunteer work on The Colorado Trail” on the right, the clock was presented to the Smiths at the ceremony at the close of their second week of trail crews. It is signed by the Saguache Ranger District, Rio Grande National Forest. Congratulations, Phil and Mae, for a job well done over the years with your many trail crews in the Saguache District.
Location: Rio Grande National Forest; Lujan Pass area

This was the fifth year for the high schoolers from the Douglas County Alternative High Schools to participate in trail work! It was the third year for one of the students and the second year for two others. We even had two alumni register to come with the group, plus another alumnus now living in Gunnison who came up for a day and a half! When we arrived at the campsite on Saturday, it was raining. It had rained enough several days before that the place where we usually put up the kitchen tent was a big puddle. The rain finally quit long enough to erect base camp. On Sunday, we loaded tools and the crew into three vehicles and headed up a forest road. We were taking the tools to the work site and then going to have safety instruction and trail-building instruction. Then we worked for a couple of hours to put into practice what was taught. On the way up the road, we had to cut about eight trees that had fallen across the road in order to make the road passable. Needless to say, we did only about one hour’s worth of work on the trail that day! Progress was slow this year, due to the extremely rainy weather. It was necessary to quit early on two days because the trail was too wet to work on, plus the rain itself. We completed only 1401 feet of trail this week. We have already planned with Ranger Jim Jaminet for another two weeks of crew in this District next year. There is still much to be done. Those participating on this crew were Bob Ballou (cook’s helper), Steve Brockmeyer (teacher), Chris Caffey, Ryan Cassell, Eva Cavaliere, Marcus Clark, Keely Corey, Ben Daniels, Lindsay Holland, Ben Levin, Nikki Henry, Jessie Pattison, Kurt Sheffield, Greg Simons (teacher), Mae Smith (cook), Amber Tamayo, and me. We had four backpackers stay for dinner, overnight, breakfast, and lunch; and four for whom we provided lunch (boy! were they happy to have bread instead of crackers, etc., they had been eating!). We were glad that we had plenty of food to share with these dedicated hikers. This crew worked a half day on Wednesday. Then we took them up on Sargent’s Mesa to see the Soldierstone. The teachers prepared the crew for this unusual war memorial prior to the trip. From where the vehicles park, there is about a quarter mile of meadow through which to walk, and everyone found the wildflowers to be spectacular, even though at this high altitude, they are very short-stemmed. Once again the food was excellent, though this being Mae’s and my third crew this year, the menu gets a little old—and as most of you know, it doesn’t vary much from year to year either. However, Mae does a great job of putting as much variety as possible into the menus.
“Perils in the mud” was suggested as the name for our week in the San Juan Mountains. The perils were few, but the mud was EVERYWHERE! Good spirits and hard work prevailed thanks to a great group of people who came from far and wide to spend a week constructing new water bars, berming and cutting new trail, and clipping back overgrown willows obstructing the trail. Our work was made even more interesting by the high elevation and exposure to weather.

Crew leader, Ken Marshall, had us on our way up to the work site everyday by 7 AM to ensure we would be off the ridge by the early afternoon thunderstorms. Not a problem until you were on the breakfast crew and found yourself heading to the cook tent at 5:30 AM!

The San Juan “monsoons” were in full force for our week, and we all got to know each other well while waiting out the rains. Larry Mack and his canine pal Roxie from Colorado Springs joined Richard Conger from Texas to become our “Paul Bunyans”—they cut up a slew of fallen trees and also teamed up in the cook tent to produce some of our best meals. Bob Fulton from Westcliffe and Tom Peck from Evergreen arrived a little late and left a little early and accomplished a great deal on the water bar crew. Both equestrians who have ridden most of the CT, their stories educated the rest of us on horse lore and multiuse trail etiquette. Bob’s never-ending supply of jokes and stories helped fill up some of our long, damp evenings, and hiking alongside him up (and I mean UP) to our work site each morning made the time and elevation gain pass effortlessly (well, almost). Laurie and Lynda and Weldon Hyde joined us from Fredonia, Kansas, with lots volunteer stories to share. Weldon has a reputation of tackling ANY job, even latrine duty, and was seen digging water bars around and IN the social tent following a particularly heavy downpour! Sarah Knight of Denver, Kayla Hefner from Texas, Lynda Morris from Durango, and Tom Urquhart of Green Bay, Wisconsin, added their talents and stories to the group.

Once the rains eased up and we made it up to the ridge with our McCleods, Pulaskis, and rock bars (an accomplishment in itself—a three- to four-mile hike up to 12,000 feet), Ted La May
and our Forest Service ranger, **Gary Mason**, patiently instructed us all in water bar construction. “The water bar crew” became quite proud of their efforts and vowed to return another year to check on the durability of their work. Rounding out the crew were **Jill Ozaki** of Golden, **Suzanne Reed** of Littleton, **John Wilson** of Dallas, and **Rusty Dowling** all the way from Virginia, along with **Shirley** and **Winn Wolvington** of Golden, with their many years of CT trail experience.

Trudging up and down the Grindstone trail (our access to the CT) each day, we soon realized we were on a multiuse trail — nothing like sharing a muddy track with a herd of free-range cattle! Our daily treks up to the ridge were rewarded with panoramic views across the mountain ranges and down the valleys to herds of grazing elk. As the trail repair progressed, Ken Marshall formed the “clipper crew,” who moved up the ridge to cut back the thick willows which had all but obstructed parts of the trail. After several hours of clipping with their heads buried in the bushes, Lynda, Weldon, Roy, Laurie, Jill, Suzanne, and Richard sat amongst the brilliant fields of wildflowers and watched the high peaks and river valleys emerge as the clouds parted.

Of course the week’s memories are not just made up of work accomplished but of seeing a rainbow against the gray evening sky, listening to **Gary Mason** take us back to the Gold Rush days in Alaska with Robert Service poetry read aloud, and laughing about the group who got lost (no names will be mentioned!) on the way back to camp.

Thanks to Ken and everyone for a memorable monsoon week in the San Juans.
We gathered on Saturday, July 17, at the Dillon Ranger Station in Silverthorne and four-wheeled to a turnaround on Miners Creek road. Our leader, Stan Ward, had made the decision earlier to move the campsite from the location originally intended (which was higher up a very steep and rocky offshoot of the four-wheel road) for fear that few vehicles could make the climb. The trade-off was a lower campsite that was much more accessible, but with fewer level tent spots and a much longer hike to our workplace. After the crew hiked the steep road to the work area, all agreed that the revised plan was a wise one.

Our 19-member crew of 9 women and 10 men included a contingent from Arkansas (Betty and Mike Brown, Virginia and Dwight Buras, LaQuita Cannon, and Sally Stone), who are very active with the Ozark Highlands Trail, and the legendary “Grey Owl” (Joe Barrett) of Pryor, Oklahoma, who has completed both the Appalachian Trail and The Colorado Trail. In addition to Stan, our crew featured several very active CT Foundation and crew veterans, including Rolly Rogers, Jill Gilpin, Sue Palmer, Marge Burgess, Bob Hunter, Corinne Kock, and Frank Szvetecz, and first-timers Tom and Andy Brooksher. Paul Wicks from England joined us for his second crew of three this summer. Paul did several crews on a stateside trip in 1993. We lost Gary Coats to sickness on Monday. Gary’s smile and easy-going style was missed. The group ranged in age from 15-year-old high school sophomore Andy, to Rolly, a 71-year-old retired geologist and expert mountaineer.

Our assignments involved renovating and/or replacing four bridges, building about 65 to 70 water bars, digging out 6.52 million rocks and stumps, reestablishing and widening the tread for what seemed like 95 miles, and clearing downed trees. On Monday and Tuesday we built about half the water bars and did quite a bit of rock clearing, and we finished the tear down and rebuilding of a 22-foot-long log bridge.

By Tuesday Marge Burgess had earned the title “The Pulaski Queen,” which was formally bestowed on her at the Friday night awards ceremony by Grey Owl, because of her deft use of a Pulaski, as well as her obvious attachment to the hoe-and-ax tool. After a little kidding, Marge admitted that after being on a crew in 1998, she bought the tool so much to her liking that she would use one to use in her garden.

The weather held for us early in the week with pleasant temperatures and a soothing cloud cover, and by the end of the day Tuesday we had completed all of the work marked for us by the Forest Service. Stan pretended not to hear the crew’s suggestions that we play the rest of the week and quickly devised about three weeks’ worth of challenges for us to
complete in the remaining two workdays. So, after most of the crew participated in an invigorating hike to Peak 5 on Wednesday (during which she demonstrated why she’s known as “Long Gone Virginia” Buras), it was back to the tread on Thursday morning. After Thursday evening’s downpour we were anxious to see how our rolling dips held up: they were magnificent!

About half the crew continued to build rolling water bars, dig out rocks, reestablish the tread, and generally spruce up the trail. The other half took up the task of working on three bridges. We tore out and replaced a 24-foot corduroy bridge with logs, did major work on a second, including extending it almost 20 feet, and repaired a small corduroy. The bridge work became a real team-building exercise as we pooled our talents and experiences to overcome the challenges of working with the limited tools at hand. Cutting the tread on one became a great father-son experience for Andy and Tom. (Tom had an unexpected bath when he slipped on a support into the cold, cold water.) The crew also benefited greatly when the Forest Service provided a chain saw on Friday afternoon after learning that Dwight Buras was chain-saw certified. Without it we could not have completed the bridge and cleared many downed timbers before having to leave on Friday. In addition to being very able with the chain saw, Dwight demonstrated a tremendous capacity for hard work, earning him the “Whistle While You Work” Award presented Friday night by friend and fellow Arkansan, Mike Brown.

Off the trail, the crew bonded in special ways. Non-work highlights included:

Wonderful food, including an elegant hors d’oeuvre presentation Thursday afternoon, provided by our mess supervisor (well, she says “Food Manager”) Sue Palmer. While Sue was charmed in the cook tent, her luck was dubious in the automotive department. Her car overheated on the way to Silverthorne and had to be taken to a local garage for repair. When Jill took her in to pick it up later in the week, Sue’s luck spread and the brakes went out on Jill’s car, resulting in a trip to the shop for her car and a long walk back to camp for both.

The fun on Friday night of giving each other “awards” based on personal actions and revelations during the week. Campfires every night, with people reluctant to go to bed because of the interesting discussions and new friends. A fascinating blend of dialects and accents. On any given night around the campfire you could hear a slow Arkansas twang mixed with Grey Owl’s rich backwoods Oklahoma drawl, peppered with Louisiana-born Dwight’s unique blend of Cajun seasoned by 30 years of living in Texas, all in sharp contrast to Paul’s version of the Queen’s English.

Paul’s, Gary’s, Andy’s, and Tom’s valiant attempts to entertain the crew by guitar at various points over the week, despite the fact that none of their repertoires included campfire songs. Grey Owl rescued the foursome with several rousing tunes on the harmonica. On Wednesday, on the hike to Peak 5, he also tried to attract the pikas and marmots with a bouncing rendition of “Oh Susanna” which he claimed “always works.” It didn’t.

The disclosure by LaQuita Cannon that she got her name from a character in a True Stories magazine!

Betty Brown’s several close calls during the week as she tried to go cold turkey to break her vicious addiction to the stock market. A couple of smuggled Business sections, a hot penny stock tip picked up by Paul, Andy, and Tom in Breckenridge on Wednesday, and the mere knowledge that Jill was working on the US West/Qwest merger kept her stable.

The realization that the trail work was child’s play compared to the intensity of the card games that went on most nights after dark. Jill, Betty, Dwight, and Sally taught Andy to play bridge the first night. And with a little coaching from Sally, he took all 13 tricks in a 7 no trump bid with the first hand dealt. To return the favor, Andy taught all comers to play “Kings and Gravel Suckers,” which he also won his share of times, earning him the “Colorado Trail Card Shark” award from Jill.

It was a great time with lots of laughs, hard work, and new friends — the last being perhaps the best memory we will all treasure. We take pride in the fact that our part of the CT from Gold Hill to the top of the Ten Mile Range is much improved as a result of Crew #6’s efforts.
As you might imagine, the trails in Arkansas receive little use in the summer because in 100-degree weather, you just want to stay in air-conditioned spaces. However for die-hard hikers like us, we have found a way to be on a trail and be cool! We go to Colorado! And we work on the trail too. Is there a better way to know what trails to hike, than to work on them?

Six and ½ Arkansans worked on Section 8 of The Colorado Trail around Miners Creek in Summit County this summer. The one-half, by the way, is Joe Barrett (a.k.a. Grey Owl since he hiked the Appalachian Trail) and, although he lives in Oklahoma, he spends a lot of time hiking in Arkansas with the rest of us, so he’s an honorary ½ Arkansan.

The guys worked on the bridges while the women built a lot of water bars and removed tons of rocks from the tread. We surprised everyone by getting the flagged areas done so quickly that we had to move uphill on Thursday.

Besides getting a lot of work done, we also met new people and had a great time. And what a way to get in shape for a backpacking trip too!

Shortly after our workweek, we backpacked from Camp Hale to Half Moon Creek on The Colorado Trail. We met another volunteer work crew just a couple of days out and we complimented them on their hard work. Needless to say, we were very proud to tell them that we had just finished working on the trail too! It sure feels great to be a giver as well as a taker.

We have many trails in Arkansas, and we hope that when your trails are covered in snow, you will consider trying ours.

Thanks for a great week!

Reflections on Crew #6

“From my perspective, I left on the crew thinking it was about being in the wilderness, giving something back and working up a sweat. But I came home realizing that it wasn’t about those things at all. The crew experience is all about community—meeting 18 other people and growing from strangers to family in a week with the help of some hard work and a campfire. On the way home I asked my son Andy what he enjoyed most about the week. Without hesitation and with great zeal he said, ‘the people on the crew.’ He got it too.”

Editor’s Note: Stan Ward passed along the following quotation from a letter he got from Tom Brooksher, one of the members of Crew 6. As Stan points out, “Tom found the words to get to the heart of the experience and feelings of most, if not all, of us who have been on a crew. It is especially relevant because his 15-year-old son felt the same way.”

Thank you, Tom and Andy.

Continued from page 17

This crew’s special distinction came on Thursday. Every crew has rocks—not every one has a body. Sharon, Toni, and Tut came upon a frightening sight while hiking on Wednesday. At the bottom of an abandoned mining hole was a form like a human body wrapped in white cloth. After the story was shared, everyone was convinced that it was a real body. Even the Ranger, Loretta, went to check it out. The discovery that it was just a bundle of ground cover cloth was welcome news, although many had lost sleep over the matter the night before.

Friday night the crew song was sung by its writers Mark and Sam. It was a great ending to a very eventful week on The Colorado Trail.
“We have a story to tell you, about a CT crew. Listen while we tell you, a little story or two.” So began the Crew 0999 song, 26 verses in all, describing our week in beautiful Porcupine Gulch near Leadville. The week began with a meeting at the Leadville Ranger Station on Saturday. From there we proceeded to the campsite and set up the community tents and the latrine. Our camp was beside a hill on the edge of a beautiful meadow. Looking South from camp, we enjoyed an amazing view of the Sawatch Range. The latrine built on Saturday was the usual inadequate tarp and bucket, but by week’s end, we were equipped with a luxurious, low-to-the-ground contraption courtesy of Don, and the crew leader, Gene. Saturday was a day for getting to know each other better. We were all fascinated by the various accents present. We had quite a menagerie with members Toni Robert and Ethel Troyanek from Alabama, and Paul Wicks all the way from England. Others were Sharon Benson, Ann Schmechel and Jim Tate, plus two father-daughter duos from Colorado, Bart and Leanna Berger, and Ken and Katie Walker. From Kansas we had Alison and Renee Boyer, and Weldon and Linda Hyde. Don Brewington and Sam House hailed from Texas, Gene Cash from Nebraska with his grandson, David Hughes, soon to be from the Ukraine, Molly Day from Illinois, and Kerry Lubeski and Mark Santa-Maria from Michigan. Learning all of the names was a challenge for some. Especially Ethel’s nickname, Tut, which is supposed to rhyme with “put.”

On Sunday, most of the crew did some hiking on the CT. Gene and several others scouted out the trail we would be working on. The rest headed the opposite direction to Bear Lake and Galena Mountain. That evening it rained (guess what . . . it rained every evening!), and all 20 of us headed for the community tent. We were entertained by a very difficult crossword puzzle and several pages of number riddles throughout the week. We tried to pass the time before and after supper by singing to Sam House’s guitar and working on the “brainteasers.” Between the 20 brains in the room, we managed to get fewer than 10 “correct” answers to the crossword puzzle. After some discussion, it was unanimously decided that there was more than one possible answer to a crossword; this significantly raised our score.

We did accomplish some trail work in our seven days. The day’s work began with a mile hike up and over a small pass. At the top an alpine meadow provided a stunning view of the Arkansas River Valley to the East. This pass and the switchbacks down the other side were the main focus of our work. Numerous water bars and check dams were put in. The biggest project of the week was improving one badly eroded switchback. Some members of the crew felt compelled to move mountain-sized boulders and build a retaining wall on this switchback. Some crew members, like Leanna, chose to show off their strength by lifting huge rocks with a single rock bar or carrying numerous tools back and forth down the trail.

Continued on page 16
Crew 8’s assignment was to move the CT off four miles of Forest Service road onto a stock driveway that winds through the willows and across Jarosa Mesa. This section of the Trail is three miles west of Spring Creek Pass. The change not only gets hikers out of muddy ruts but also takes them up over Buck Mountain for great views of the San Juans—Uncompahgre, Red Cloud, Sunshine, Handies, etc.—and shortcuts the journey by more than a mile.

For a number of reasons (e.g., distance of the reroute, rocky terrain, tundra), Ernie Werren, Merle McDonald, and the Forest Service agreed we would not attempt to cut a new tread. Rather, our task was to build 31 large cairns holding 6-foot posts to guide CT users across the new route. All but 5 of our 19 crew members were experienced in CT trail building, and the volunteers tackled the work with enthusiasm. As with other crews this summer, our biggest obstacle was incessant rain. While early mornings were clear, dark clouds rolled in by late morning, and storms with both rain and hail came booming through the big sky by noon. So to accomplish the work, we started early and then headed down to camp at tree line by midday just ahead of the storms.

CT veterans Dan Coulter, Bev Gherardini, Roger Gomas, Marylin Greeneisen, Allen Kallenbach, Larry Mack, Bill Maltby, Grady Monk, Sandy and Paul Njaa, Sue Palmer, Rolly Rogers, and Ken Swierenga were joined by Dewey Hill, Jim Kerr, Bill Preston, Tom Standley, and Don Van Wyke. We organized into three teams—Blue, Green, and Red. Roger Gomas was Blue Team leader, Ken Swierenga was Green Team leader, and Sue Palmer was known in camp as “Red Leader.” Roger, Grady, Larry, and Roxy rose before sunup each morning to put on the coffee and make breakfast.

We had a good time up there at our high-mountain camp. Fishermen in the group brought back a mess of fish on Wednesday and treated us to grilled fish hors d’oeuvres. Sandy and Paul celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, and we feted “Sue P” on her birthday with cake, balloons, and singing accompanied by horseman Dan’s ukulele. There were enthusiastic, if somewhat wet, games of “99,” and Tom’s accommodations were the hit of “Open Tent” night. One evening CTF President George Miller gave an informative talk on the Foundation and answered the group’s many questions.

But most important, we were able to improve the Trail for all who come along in future years to cross Jarosa Mesa. They’ll find a line of hefty cairns erected by Crew 0899 to clearly point the way.

Photos on page 19 (left to right, top to bottom):

Photo #1: Volunteers on Jarosa Mesa Crew #0899 gathered at their camp west of Spring Creek Pass.

Photo #2: Crew 0899’s Green Team builds a post cairn on the east side of Buck Mountain.

Photo #3: Volunteer Dewey Hill tops a post cairn with orange paint to help hikers find the way across Jarosa Mesa.

Photo #4: Crew 0899’s Red Team after building a post cairn on Jarosa Mesa.

Photo #5: Members of the Jarosa Mesa crew show off one of their post cairns on the eastern approach to Buck Mountain.

Photo #6: Another example of the crew’s beautiful handiwork.

Photo #7: Volunteer Larry Mack stands outside the Jarosa Mesa crew cook tent after cooking the crew’s breakfast.
Food Packing Sets a Record

by Pat Nagorka

Beautiful day, perfect timing, and what a crew! A crew of 15 can pack a lot of food in a short amount of time, as proven by the packers last May. They even gave up a day of the Memorial Day weekend to abuse their muscles and sweat in the sun. But that is what Colorado Trail people are all about, isn’t it?

Colorado Springs and the surrounding area are sending more than their share of the people, with 7 out of the 15: President of the CTF, George Miller, and his wife Lila Miller, Roger and Nancy Gomas, who brought Grady and Shirley Monk, longtime trail workers but first-time food packers, and another first-time food packer, Susan Junkin, who joined the fun after some poor directions got her off track. From Castle Rock came Phil Smith without Mae, whom we missed. Lone Tree gave us the Eisles, Rick and Marilyn. From Denver was our team driver, Denise Wright; Jon and Marylin Greeneisen, CTF registrars; Art Rankin, producer of our T-shirts and hats; and me.

A huge THANK YOU to all of you for giving up such a beautiful spring day and for doing such a terrific job.

Left to right, back row: Rick Eisle, Jon Greeneisen, Art Rankin, Roger Gomas, George Miller, Grady Monk
Middle row: Marilyn Eisle, Marylin Greeneisen (in the hat), Denise Wright, Nancy Gomas (plaid shirt), Lila Miller, Shirley Monk, Susan Junkin
Laid out!: Phil Smith

“I know I put one on that pile, but where did it go?” says Rick Eisle, scratching his head.
THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES
HAVE GENEROSLY DONATED FOOD
TO YOUR TRAIL CREW, 1999

Alamos Distributors, Inc.—John Amerman
Tortilla Chips

Archway Cookies, Inc.—Ray Milner
Many Varieties of Cookies

H.J. Heinz Co.—Mike Helgeson and Mike Crouch
Tuna, Relish, Mustard

King Soopers—E. John Burgon, President
Merchandise Certificates

Kuner Empson Co.—Bob Seifert
Corn ’N Peppers, Peas

Nestles Food Co.—Dave Greer
Hot Chocolate, Candy Bars, Teas

Rocky Mountain Foods—Dave Greenhouse
Trail Mix, Hard Candy

Peaberry Coffee Ltd.—Cathy Nario
Coffee

Stokes Ellis Foods—Linda Mathews
Corned Beef, Peas, Corn, Green Beans

Please show your appreciation for these generous donations by supporting these companies, many of which have supported us for years. We were sorry to learn that Early Bird Foods have “closed their doors after thirty years.” We will miss their tasty granola. Good luck, John Roitsch, in your retirement.

As always, it is a pleasure to work with these companies that support our trail crews.

THANK YOU ALL. Pat Nagorka, Food Committee Chair
The cabin has been closed up and put under cover for the winter. **Dan Wolfe, John Wilson, Polly Gaskill, Dave Gaskill,** and **Gudy** painted the base, repaired the screens, oiled the logs, brought in the wood for the winter, caught the pack rat, drained the water line, and took inventory of the food items left for the upcoming winter ski trips. A new skylight has been purchased and will be installed before next season, bringing the sunlight into the reading area. The cabin is available for use by CTF contributing members. The cabin can be reached by an ordinary car before the snows come or after Memorial Day when the county plows the Alpine Scenic Byway. During the winter, it is accessible by snowshoe or cross-country skis. Please contact **Gudy Gaskill** if you would like more information on the location and its availability.

E-mail: Gudyct@megsinet.net  
Phone: (303) 526-2721  
Fax: (303) 526-2721  
Mailing address: 548 Pine Song Trail, Golden, CO 80401

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**Menu Talk**  
by **Pat Nagorka**

The cries for “Let us have the spaghetti back” were loud and clear. I hope it was good and the garlic bread yummy. Another change in the menu was the blueberry pudding dessert. Tasty yes, but the pans situation and putting the pudding together proved difficult for some, so look for some revisions there. Another new item that will not return is the cheese crackers. They were just not that great. I heard no comments on the Creamy Stir Fry chicken, so I must assume it was OK. The same with the Tuna ‘n Rice dinner.

I still have not heard of a good, easy change for the lunch menu. If you have any suggestions, I’d love to hear them, and any other comments, suggestions, and ideas you may have about the menus, instructions, or recipes. You can contact me at (303) 841-2777, or 6796 E. Pine Lane, Parker, CO 80138.

Hope everyone had a good crew, despite the rain this year. Have a Merry Christmas and see you next year.

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**1999 Reunion and Potluck Supper**  
by **Lois Cochran**

Fabulous food, fun, and renewal of old friendships were enjoyed by those who attended the reunion supper. The food included such trail crew favorites as brisket and homemade ice cream. **Merle McDonald** reported on this summer’s accomplishments and next year’s plans. Colorado Trail crew work is never done, and there are many areas where we will be working next year.

A slide show by **Richard Nolde**, the CTF Webmaster, showed some of the scenery he saw on his hike on the southern end of the trail a few years ago.

Many thanks to **Uta McDonald, Irene Cazer,** and **Charlotte Briber** for planning and organizing this year’s reunion.

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**CTF Education Center**

The cabin has been closed up and put under cover for the winter. **Dan Wolfe, John Wilson, Polly Gaskill, Dave Gaskill,** and **Gudy** painted the base, repaired the screens, oiled the logs, brought in the wood for the winter, caught the pack rat, drained the water line, and took inventory of the food items left for the upcoming winter ski trips. A new skylight has been purchased and will be installed before next season, bringing the sunlight into the reading area. The cabin is available for use by CTF contributing members. The cabin can be reached by an ordinary car before the snows come or after Memorial Day when the county plows the Alpine Scenic Byway. During the winter, it is accessible by snowshoe or cross-country skis. Please contact **Gudy Gaskill** if you would like more information on the location and its availability.

E-mail: Gudyct@megsinet.net  
Phone: (303) 526-2721  
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Mailing address: 548 Pine Song Trail, Golden, CO 80401
The summer of 1999 was a wet one for the CT Treks. Although every week had rain, the hardy hikers of The Colorado Trail finished their weeks in good spirits and companionship. The wildflowers were extra spectacular, and the misty vistas gave a different look to the trail. The crews and hikers had more adverse conditions than usual, but very few problems arose.

Six hikers chose to complete the CT on a trek this year. Congratulations to completers Betty Goding, JoAnne Richard, Kamilla Macar, Donna Kaufman, Dean Simmons, and Erin Kraemer. They all spent considerable time and effort to reach their goal. Thanks for sharing your achievement with your fellow hikers. It will give them encouragement and inspiration to complete the Trail.

None of the treks would be possible without the hardworking crews. The CTF has been fortunate to attract dedicated people to operate this program. Sincere and heart-felt thanks to every staff member for their devotion, loyalty, and labor.

The food preparation for the treks has changed over the years. The purchase of the food previously was done mostly by the cooks, and most of the preparation was done on the trail. Now the food is purchased by the food coordinator and helpers. All of the main dishes are cooked and frozen, and then the final preparation is done by the cooks on the trail. This is done for sanitary reasons and for quality control as well as to lighten the load of the cooks.

This year there has again been an outstanding group helping with the food. Special thanks goes to Rhonda Weiler for her help in the shopping and sorting of food and paper goods. Anne Craddock helped with cooking and recipe development. Nicki Rosa, Gwyneth Shahan, and Annette Demel helped with packing the food. George Miller delivered all of the food to the trek camps throughout the state. Deepest appreciation to all for their efforts.

The trek office has a different e-mail address. It is glmctf@uswest.net. All inquiries, questions, etc., can reach the trek office at this address.

This poem was written following Colorado Trail crew 0599, during which it rained—a lot. We were lucky to have the yurt instead of a kitchen tent and kept looking for the positive, but it wasn’t easy.

LISTEN TO THE RAIN
by Lois Cochran

Listen to the rain - it’s such a restful sound
Don’t think about it seeping into your tent and not the ground.
Listen to the rain - no need for fire bans - that’s good
You can have a campfire every day if you can find dry wood.
Listen to the rain - it keeps the mosquitoes from flying
While around the stove in the yurt, clothes are hanging drying.
Listen to the rain - the clouds keep it warm at night
But if you want a sunshower, the warmth is pretty slight.
Listen to the rain - it makes the trail easy to dig
While your boots pick up mud making them feel twice as big.
Listen to the rain - think of the good things - don’t be pessimistic
But when it just keeps falling all week, it’s hard to stay optimistic.
1999 was the seventh summer that the CTF offered classes at the Education Center or at Molas Pass. Take advantage of these exciting opportunities next summer!

Geology Class

The last two years the geology class has had to be canceled due to insufficient registration. This class has been held at Little Molas Lake next to Molas Pass in the San Juan Mountains. The location is a great spot to view a large variety of geologic formations spanning millions of years. We have been fortunate to have Dr. Jack Campbell, a retired professor of geology from Fort Lewis College, as our instructor. The class itself presents a fascinating look at geologic history, made doubly so by Jack’s intimate knowledge of the surrounding areas of Little Molas Lake. Consider signing up for this class while Jack is still available. You won’t be sorry! Broaden your mind, while appreciating the topography of the San Juans.

Rocky Mountain Wildflowers

The class was held at the Education Center, 22 miles SW of Lake City. Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, filled to capacity, was attended by Ruth Cannon, Bob Davidson, Lila Hansen, Ronald Hansen, Marie-Jeanne Lombardi, Ruth Mallory, David Mallory, Laurie McCanne, Roy McCanne, Bruce Scorsone, Jan and Dan Wolfe, and Gudy Gaskill. Robin Bingham, our instructor, is a professor at Western State College in Gunnison, and did a wonderful job in keeping all of us informed and interested. The level ranged from rank beginner to advanced botanist. This was a superb summer for wildflowers, bringing out an unusual variety of flowers and it was not uncommon for us to identify a hundred or so flowers each day. Robin’s enthusiasm and knowledge were an inspiration to us all.

Rocky Mountain Watercolor Workshop

Attending the Rocky Mountain Watercolor workshop were Kathleen Bowen, Parker, CO; Jack Campbell, Durango, CO; Dave Gaskill, Golden, CO; Laurie Forbes, Durango, CO; Ruth Shields, Durango, CO; Sadie Short, Durango, CO; Kim Stevens, Lakewood, CO; Sue Reinhardt, Denver, CO; Dan Wolfe, Albuquerque, NM, and Gudy Gaskill, Golden, CO. This is Margaret Barge’s third year in instructing and critiquing the high altitude workshop. It’s a fascinating class, with views to paint in any direction, an inspiration to do a lot of painting, culminating in an art show on the last night. Even if you’ve never painted before, the scenery will inspire you, and Margaret has a gentle way of leading you in the right direction. This is an ego pleaser.

Rocky Mountain Medley

This year was our first year in offering the medley. Next summer it will be called “Rocky Mountain Sampler,” as a different subject is offered each day. This summer, the first day we studied butterflies and moths in the morning and aquatic insects in the afternoon. We actually caught butterflies from each of the five groups and looked at the difference between moths and butterflies. Martha Walton really got into the act with her butterfly net. In the afternoon we walked down to the river and turned over stones looking for caddis flies and other larva. Tuesday Gudy taught the class in watercolors, and everyone produced at least one “masterpiece.” On Wednesday the group went ridge running, first climbing the peak behind the cabin and then following the hairy ridge over toward Cooper Lake. Light rain aborted the destination, but a good time was had by all. Dan Wolfe was our careful leader. On Thursday, Dave Gaskill gave a short history on millions of years of geology. In the afternoon we drove to Lake City and visited the museum as well as driving the tour of historic houses. We spent Friday botanizing with Kathy Darrow, author of Wild about Wildflowers. Not only did Kathy identify the wildflowers on our hike, but also she gave us many interesting bits about legends, myths, and folklore of the wildflowers. The day and week passed too quickly. It was a lot to cram into the old mind in one week, but it opened our eyes to so many facets of the wilderness and its inhabitants, how they got there, and how they have adapted and evolved. This class will get better with age. Come join us next year in the superb setting of the San Juans and take a tour into its mysteries.

Report on Summer 1999 Classes

by Gudy Gaskill
A Mutual Admiration Story

by Julie Mesdag

My guess is that if you get this newsletter, you love The Colorado Trail. I know I do, and I know that Michael Martin Murphey does. Those of you who are not aware of how much the trail means to Michael should attend a Westfest over Labor Day weekend each year. This year it was in Vail and last year at Silver Creek. These two years are significant because it was in 1998 that Michael took us under his angel wing and began supporting us in a BIG way. He has formed the Murphey Trail Foundation, and on Friday night before Westfest kicked off, he and his band, together with the Pueblo Symphony, John McCuen, and R. Carlos Nakai, performed a benefit concert for The Colorado Trail, and to help maintain and preserve the public trails of the West. In addition to that benefit concert, there was a silent auction all weekend in which all items were fully donated for the CT and trails. Bob and Carole Zinn of Edwards, Colorado, put together the auction, and they too are committed and dedicated to our trail. I am sure many of you know someone who might donate a quality item to the auction next year to benefit trails. Think about it and let the CT office or me (jwmesdag@hotmail.com) know.

I also wanted to show Michael and Willard Forman of Summit Trail Adventures how much we adopters appreciate what they are doing for our trail. This August they finished their second of five trail rides to cover the entire CT. They will ride into Durango in 2002, and a portion of the proceeds from the riders will benefit the CT. So . . . together with several members of our “Former FBI/NASA Personnel and Friends,” section 13 maintenance crew, we hosted a dinner for the riders as they came through Camp Hale in our section. The rain surely did not dampen the incredible atmosphere of the entire evening. There was a lot of sharing and storytelling about the trail, and musical offerings from Michael. Their cooks let us know they appreciated a night off too. Michael, Willard, their crew and riders let us know they appreciate what we do and vice versa. Happy Trails!

Note: You can also see Michael Murphey in January at the National Western Stock Show. He is very passionate about this wonderful place in which we live called the West, including our trail.

Benefit Concert

by Gudy Gaskill

If you didn’t make it to the Michael Martin Murphey concert in Vail in August, you missed a show of a lifetime! The Pueblo Symphony Orchestra and their versatile conductor captivated the hearts of all of the concert goers. And Michael Martin Murphey gave a tremendous solo show that received many standing ovations. The Ford Amphitheater, with its spectacular setting, incredible acoustics, and intimate feeling, was a perfect showcase for Michael’s fine voice and choice of songs. The feeling of love and enchantment was everywhere. After the show everyone moved back to the lodge for a wine and cheese party and a chance to bid on the silent auction, with The Colorado Trail being among the beneficiaries. Bob and Carole Zinn did a tremendous job in securing donations and displaying the auction items in the lobby of the lodge.
Ted Berri

Ted died in his home in Denver after a short illness. Born in 1913, Ted led an active life, and after retirement he and his wife Patti volunteered many hours with the Colorado Mountain Club. Patti became one of the first contributors to the original Colorado Mountain Trail Foundation and continued supporting and believing in the trail through its succession from Friend of the CT to the present Colorado Trail Foundation. Ted and Patti were familiar faces at most of the special events as well as the open houses. He will be missed by his many friends and remembered as a person who could figure out any type of engineering. He designed tables, shower stalls, chairs, and a number of kitchen tools to help the trail crews. He was always optimistic, loved a good joke, and always came up with an answer to our problems. God received a great handyman. We shall miss his expertise and good humor.

—Gudy Gaskill

Jim volunteer for The Colorado Trail project when we had a lot to do and really needed leaders. He consistently would call and say, “What more can I do; what else do you need?”

The people he had on his trail crews absolutely adored him because he was gentle, kind, and never put anyone down. He was always a positive person and encouraging. That’s a hard trait to come by; trail leaders are not always like that. Jim had such a laid-back, wonderful feeling about his trail crews. People kept coming back year after year because they felt comfortable.

I remember going up to his house a number of times just to deliver T-shirts or certificates or whatever else, and he always invited me in. I sat and relaxed before taking off, and I looked forward to those drives to his house. He was somebody I knew really believed in the Trail and what he was doing.

He called one day and said he couldn’t be a crew leader anymore because he was forgetting things so readily. Then about four years ago, we had a celebration for pulling together a new trail over Tiger Run, which would be Gold Hill and Breckenridge (from Georgia Pass). He came out for the day, and he had a wonderful time.

Two friends brought him and hiked with him that day so he wouldn’t get lost. He remembered all the little nicks and crannies throughout the hike and loved watching for the mushrooms. I remember, too, how he raved about the colors of the flowers.

I thought, “Your mind might be wandering and forgetful, but your senses are alert to all these things.” He hadn’t lost his ability to sense the beauties of the outdoors.

—Gudy Gaskill

Editor’s note: Jim Ray succumbed recently to Alzheimer’s Disease. He was remembered in an End of the Trail feature in the September–October, 1999, issue of Trail & Timberline, the magazine of the Colorado Mountain Club. This tribute by Gudy will appear in the next issue of Trail & Timberline and is used with permission of the CMC.
New and familiar names make up our current office volunteer crew. **Pat Rush** sorts through our wide variety of mail every week—from requests for CT products to general information questions. Pat efficiently responds to each and records the details for our database. **Liz Truitt**, known to many CT Friends, continues to tackle the mounds of bookkeeping that accumulate each week. Her years of experience with the CT and CMC as well as her “never give up” attitude have solved many an accounting problem here in the office. **Jill Ozaki** and **Julie Mesdag** have helped send out the many CT cookbooks ordered over the last couple of months. Julie also sold cookbooks for us at Westfest this year. A “new” face and name amongst our volunteers is **Kitty Brown** of Littleton. She is creating a mailing list for our new brochures. If you have an office, store, or other location you would like to see feature CT brochures, please let us know in the CT office. **Marge Burgess** has been following up on new local markets for some of our CT store items. A huge THANK YOU must go to our longtime thank you note writer, **Bea Slingsby**. Bea has sent out hundreds of notes to 25th Anniversary donors as well as our many regular CT Friends.

Currently we are in need of someone to design flyers, forms, and certificates. Also, we could use additional office help from someone proficient in Microsoft Office programs. Call the CT office at (303) 384-3729, Ext. 113.

Do you have a skill or talent you would like to share with The Colorado Trail Foundation? Please call us!

Several new items have been added to the Colorado Trail Foundation website, www.coloradotrail.org, this summer. **Eva Fisher** designed and maintained a set of pages for The Colorado Trail Run, which raised money for the CTF and let the trail-running community know about the CT. **Randy Jacobs** supplied updates to a number of descriptions for trail sections that have been relocated since the last printing of The Colorado Trail: The Official Guidebook. The updates have now been posted on the website under the Guidebook Updates list item. The Colorado Trail GIS project received a major boost when **Jerry Brown** and **Frank Floyd** recently rode most of the non-wilderness portions of the CT with a professional grade GPS unit that can record the location of the trail with an accuracy of better than one meter. **Merle McDonald** and I provided sag-wagon and shuttle support. See the related story on page 28 as well as the GIS project portion of the website for full details and the current status of the project. I would really appreciate it if trail section adopters and hikers would send me e-mail or hardcopy reports of trail conditions during the summer. It is particularly important to let prospective hikers/bikers/horse riders know what they will be up against when they are planning a hike. I know that conditions change rapidly, but massive blow downs and serious snow conditions in the spring can make a tremendous difference in the time it takes to do a hike, and it is very helpful to trail users to know about such problems in advance. The trail condition pages are frequently visited on the website, but there is very little information available on them since I cannot personally check the entire trail each spring.

The spring and fall adopter reports are particularly valuable and also show visitors just how much work it takes to maintain the trail.

I am currently looking for one or more people to act as website liaisons to the equestrian and mountain biking users of The Colorado Trail. Lacking experience in both of these areas, I have not been able to develop content for either of these areas of the website. I would also like to find someone to research the history of the Colorado Trail Foundation and help me put together a set of pages on this topic for the website. I would also like to continue my plans to put current and past issues of Tread Lines on the website. I need to find clean, legible copies of past issues and the photographs to go with them when possible. I have scanners and OCR software that can be used to get the material Continued on page 37
Editor's Note: The purpose of the GIS Project is to produce a very accurate digital map of the CT. Then anyone with a GPS receiver can accurately locate any point on the CT. Once the military security feature is removed (about year 2002), the positional error should be less than 10 feet. Currently the small hand-held GPS receivers used by hikers can have a positional error of up to 200 feet, but it usually is less than 100 feet. Once the project is completed, we will publish a list of key points along the CT for use in conjunction with a GPS receiver.

Richard Nolde, our webmaster, is spearheading this project and has put an untold number of hours into it as well as more than $600 dollars of his own cash. The following is his account of the progress made this summer. Jerry and Frank are donating all of their time, effort, and equipment.

The Colorado Trail GIS (Geographic Information System) and mapping project moved into high gear recently as expert mountain bikers Jerry Brown and his friend Frank Floyd undertook to ride as many of the non-wilderness portions of the Colorado Trail as possible with a professional grade GPS (Global Positioning System) unit. Jerry, owner of Bear Creek Survey Service in Durango, has ridden the Colorado Trail twice before. His friend Frank Floyd, a drywall contractor from Fredericksburg, Texas, is a top-10 NORBA competitor in his home state, and has ridden numerous times with Jerry in a variety of places. Frank has ridden sections of the CT on several occasions, finally completing the trail in 1995. Jerry and Frank make yearly pilgrimages to ride in such places as Costa Rica, Central America, and Copper Canyon, Mexico. Both Jerry and Frank are 49 years old.

Jerry describes Bear Creek Survey Service as “a quality control and software company that is incorporated in the State of Colorado. Bear Creek designed and markets the coordinate geometry programs which are used by the majority of geophysical exploration surveyors in the USA, Mexico, India, and Russia. The company is owned and operated by Jerry Brown, who travels to field camps in such places as Turkmenistan, Siberia, the Indian Himalayas, Nepal, and Bolivia to provide technical assistance and training to geophysical surveyors. Bear Creek is not a land surveying company and is not involved with boundary surveying on a local level.”

“The trail mapping project is being conducted using a Trimble Pathfinder Pro XRS GPS receiver which receives differential corrections from the Omnistar satellite network. It is capable of determining map positions with an accuracy of three feet or better. The receiver can collect positions at a rate of once per second as Jerry and Frank ride the trail. The resulting track file may be then layered onto a digital map image, resulting in an extremely accurate picture of where the trail is.”

Jerry was working in Mississippi earlier this summer and only returned to Colorado in the middle of August. This left only a few short weeks to get back in shape for the rigors of an extended two-week ride with lots of elevation gain. He and Frank arrived at my apartment in Littleton on August 27 to meet Merle McDonald and finalize the logistical support requirements. Our late-night session, including a last-minute trip to REI to replace a worn-out jacket and stock up on Cliff bars, ended at 1:00 a.m., but Jerry was raring to go at 5:00 a.m., and we set out for Waterton Canyon by 6:30 a.m. After all the gear was loaded and checked out, the bikers set off at 7:20 a.m. in the early morning light. Merle and I provided sag-wagon support and shuttles around the wilderness areas, with Merle doing the lion’s share of the work since I had to return to work following the first weekend. Merle’s RV camper made an excellent supply vehicle, and Frank’s 4x4 Toyota pickup came in handy a number of times when the route to a meeting point was too rough for the RV to negotiate. Some nights were spent in campgrounds, others in motels, and two at the home of longtime Colorado Trail supporters, Larry and Dawn White in Nathrop, and two more cold and rainy nights were spent in Ernie Werren’s warm and dry place in Breckenridge. I rejoined the riders and Merle the following Friday and stayed with them until we reached the last access point before La Garita Wilderness, just north of the Eddiesville trailhead, on September 8. Jerry and Frank were able to ride the section of the trail from Kennebec Pass to Durango the

Colorado Trail GIS Project
by Richard Nolde
following day.

Jerry and Frank rode for 13 days and followed the schedule below:

Day 1  Waterton to Meadows Campground
Day 2  Meadows CG to beginning of Lost Creek Wilderness; other side of Lost Creek Wilderness to Kenosha Pass
Day 3  Kenosha Pass over Georgia Pass to Gold Hill trailhead near Breckenridge
Day 4  Gold Hill trailhead to Copper Mountain over Tenmile Range
Day 5  Copper Mountain to Marshall Pass over Searle and Kokymo passes
Day 6  Hope Pass to Cottonwood Creek
Day 7  Halfmoon Campground to Twin Lakes; Cottonwood Creek to Mt. Princeton Hot Springs
Day 8  Hot Springs to US Hwy 50
Day 9  US Hwy 50 to Marshall Pass
Day 10 Marshall Pass to Sargents Mesa
Day 11 Sargents Mesa to Hwy 114
Day 12 US 114 to La Garita Wilderness
Day 13 Sliderock to Durango.

We learned a lot about the limitations of the GPS technology in a mountainous environment during Jerry’s initial work prior to the actual ride. In areas of heavy forest cover or steep canyon walls, the constellation of GPS satellites overhead at any given moment may not be adequate to give a differentially corrected three-dimensional position with a high degree of confidence. A new data point was collected every 5 seconds during the ride and all significant intersections identified and tagged individually in the data files. Jerry has already sent me a CD of data collected on the ride with a number of post-processing options reflecting different confidence levels in the positional accuracy. By the time you get this newsletter, I will have begun looking at the data and working with our GIS software.

Jerry’s bike with the equipment weighed 47 pounds, and his backpack weighed 13 more. Frank did yeomen’s duty as the spare equipment and battery carrier, with as many as 6 or 8 camcorder batteries in the pack on the rear of his bike. Frank said that the added weight gave his bike extra stability coming down the steep hills and added to the training effect of the ride for his upcoming racing season. Merle and I met them as frequently as possible with fresh supplies of batteries and energy drinks (Has anyone heard of Warp-Aid before?) and replenished the food supplies for each night’s camp. I was amazed at the amount of food these fellows put away every night and morning. Frank is an excellent cook and did double duty on the portable grill, while Jerry dutifully checked and backed up the data to one of the two laptop computers that Merle carried for him in the RV. Many stories of hiking, biking, and climbing trips were recounted over brews Merle and I found in the local grocery stores during the day. The summer rains that soaked Durango did not beleaguer our riders too badly, and aspen were already showing color at the lower elevations in some of the areas from Marshall Pass onward. The riders reported a light dusting of snow on some of the Collegiate Peaks during the first week and several mornings saw a light frost on the grass by our tents.

The GIS project is solidly under way thanks to the efforts of Jerry, Frank, Merle, and David Sears, but there remains much to do. We will analyze our initial data this winter and work on software development for producing new maps and the actual database for The Colorado Trail. Next summer, we will attempt to map the

Continued on page 30
There’s now a lighter way to stay found and know what’s beyond the next pass while traveling along The Colorado Trail. It’s called The Colorado Trail Data Book. At 4” x 5.5” and weighing less than two ounces, this 30-page quick-reference booklet will fit easily into the smallest of pockets and compartments and provides at a glance what lies ahead on the trail. Using it along with the appropriate maps is the lightest way to be “in the know” while on a journey along the trail.

The book’s format is largely based on The Appalachian Trail Databook, the one resource found in the packs of more AT hikers than any other. It contains distances and elevations of water sources, potential campsites, road crossings, re-supply points, and other landmarks along the trail and as a bonus includes elevation profiles for the entire route. Other sections include hiker safety and awareness, the ten essentials, and lightning concerns.

Tailored for long-distance backpackers, though also desirable for bikers and equestrians, the impetus for the book was to present Colorado Trail users with a lighter weight alternative to lugging around The Colorado Trail: The Official Guidebook. The data book is in no way meant to take the place of the larger guidebook, which is invaluable for the planning of a trip and quite appropriate for shorter trips along the CT. The guidebook also provides a wealth of history and background information about the trail.

1997 CT through-hiker and author of the data book Michael Hibbard donated his time and efforts in compiling the data contained in the data book, requesting that any proceeds generated by the book’s sales go toward the continued protection, maintenance, and any further construction of the trail (i.e., The Gudy Gaskill Endowment Fund). At $5 a copy, the data book is available through the Colorado Trail Foundation’s store.

So instead of taking that very handsome copy of The Colorado Trail: The Official Guidebook and piecemealing it to be sent to mail drops along the way (a tactic often employed by weight-conscious long-distance backpackers), pick up a copy of The Colorado Trail Data Book and keep the guidebook intact to add to your collection of quality reference books to other natural areas that enrich your life.

Continued from page 29

remaining sections of the trail, including the wilderness areas and the spurs. We will also need to remap short sections where we detect problems with the data collected this year. This will have to be coordinated with Jerry’s schedule and available support personnel and presents additional problems since mountain bikes are not allowed in the wilderness areas. I would like to find a way to purchase a Trimble GPS unit for the Colorado Trail Foundation so that we can continue the project from year to year and add additional landmarks and points of interest to the database. However, these units are VERY expensive and the differential correction satellite service requires an annual fee. If you know of anyone who is interested in helping underwrite this project or has experience writing grants, please contact me via e-mail at nolde@ctf.coloradotrail.org or call me at (720) 283-8752 in the evenings. Anyone with experience using the GRASS GIS or GMT mapping software packages would be particularly welcome on the team as well. Full details about the project are posted on the CTF website and will be updated as we make progress with our data analysis. I am also interested in speaking with individuals who have collected data about sections of the trail that they might have measured with a mileage wheel or tracked with a GPS unit.
I’ve only ridden horseback a few times in my life. It was quite a few years ago and only for short periods, so when I got the invitation for a four-day trail ride, I was a little hesitant. Tracy, on the other hand, was excited about the idea so we said “yes.”

We rode up on Thursday night with Gudy and Dave Gaskill and, because of a misunderstanding about where to meet, didn’t find Claire Gamble and his horses until Friday morning. The others on the ride were Jim Russell and his nine-year-old daughter, Rhianna. Tom Butterfield drove the support truck.

We got a late start (almost noon) and soon were all wearing our ponchos. It was rainy most of Friday and Saturday, but Sunday and Monday the weather was beautiful. The first day took us over Hope Pass from Twin Lakes. I thought going up was bad, but going down was even worse. I’m glad I wasn’t hiking that steep section, but I wasn’t too comfortable riding it either. Thank goodness for a sure-footed horse. Loose rock on a steep trail is not much fun for either walkers or riders.

Claire took pity on me and put me on the most gentle horse. He was also the smallest, so I was able to get on and off fairly easily. The only problem was that he walked slower than the others, then would hurry to catch up. Then I would have to stand in the stirrups, which made my knees hurt worse, or get bounced a lot, which would have hurt somewhere else. By the third day, I was more comfortable in the saddle and felt confident enough to take my feet out of the stirrups and stretch my legs occasionally, which helped the knees quite a bit. Also, we got off and walked now and then (usually on downhill stretches), which made our legs feel better.

The third day gave us the best views of the trip as we went over the saddle between Silver Creek and Middle Cottonwood Creek. After riding in clouds for two days, we welcomed a clear day. The last day took us to the road up Mt. Princeton, where we met Tom along with Claire and Tracy, who didn’t ride that day so that they could bring the other vehicles down from Twin Lakes.

This trip was a real education for a hiker and trail crew worker. Now I understand why crews are asked to remove the duff from the edges of the trail, cut the trees and bushes back away from the trail, and clear overhead branches to 12 feet. The horses seem to naturally walk on the outside edge of the trail, and when there is a tree beside the trail, they will walk right up against it unless steered away from it. I came home with a bruise on my leg from a branch that stuck out too near the trail, and Gudy showed me one on her arm that looked a lot worse than mine. Hat-grabbing branches above the trail twice tossed Gudy’s hat onto the ground, and someone had to dismount to retrieve it. I think it would be a good idea if every crew leader and adopter could have the opportunity to ride a section of the trail. The Indians used to say you couldn’t understand a person until you had walked a mile in his moccasins. In this case, we understand a horseman better after riding a day in his saddle.

Overall, the trip was a good experience in spite of the pain and the rain, and I thank Claire for providing the opportunity and Gudy for inviting us to join them on this trail ride.

A Hiker on Horseback—Ow!

by Lois Cochran
This past June 21–25, 1999, the Colorado Trail Foundation sponsored me to attend the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region’s 1st Annual R-2 Primitive Skills Academy hosted by the Medicine Bow–Routt National Forest and held in Steamboat Springs. Our expectation was to have me attain instructor status, able to certify adopters, trail crew leaders, and other interested CTF volunteers in the use of crosscut saws. Crosscut Saw certification is a fairly new requirement of the Forest Service for all personnel cutting in wilderness areas, employees and volunteers alike.

This was the Region’s first offering of a course in the Primitive Skills Program. Future courses or workshops are hoped to include backcountry horsemanship, chain saw use, trail construction, and the like. This being the first offering, the Forest Service was enlightened as to what goals could realistically be met.

At this offering, the attendance included about 40 Forest Service personnel and yours truly. Other volunteer organizations had been invited, and in fact, two other groups had registered but had to withdraw prior to the start of the course. Six instructors gave presentations over three days in the classroom and two days in the field. Presentations included the following:

- Crosscut Certification and Safety
- Crosscut Saw Certification: Need and Process
- Primitive Skills Video
- Trail Tools
- Demonstration—Axe/Pulaski
- Trail Tool Written Test
- Chain Saw Familiarization
- Properties and Reactions of Cutting Wood
- Crosscut Saw Fundamentals
- Care and Maintenance of Crosscut Saws
- Overview of Crosscut Saw Sharpening
- Crosscut Felling and Bucking and Field Testing

As you can see, we had quite a full schedule—unfortunately too full. In the time permitted in the field and with the number of students, it quickly became apparent to the instructors that not all could be adequately trained and become a Sawyer Certifier. The program instructors decided to select one Ranger from each of the eight Forests represented, to become a Sawyer Certifier. The rest of us would have to be satisfied with being certified as an Intermediate Sawyer.

Therefore, our expectations were not fully met. While I did become certified as an Intermediate Sawyer, I am not certified as a Sawyer Certifier and cannot organize and conduct certification sessions. If I had been certified as a Sawyer Certifier, the certification sessions would have had to mirror this week of instruction, or at least 16 to 32 hours of classroom study and additional time in the field.

I am not sure where we go from here for our adopters, trail crew leaders, and volunteers to become certified. A possible resolution is to bring in a Forest Service Ranger who is certified as a Sawyer Certifier to provide instruction. However, the time commitment is a large one to expect from CTF volunteers.

As a postscript: While leading Trail Crew #5—Spring Creek Pass—in July, I had the opportunity to apply many of the skills I learned in the course. With the help of a Forest Service chain saw and an industrious Wes Gantner, we bucked our way through quite a number of trees, clearing the way for the ambitious wet crew.
Margarita and Jim Miller took the shortcut from their home in Boulder to Lake City, Colorado, via scenic Paonia and the North Rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River. The Blue Mesa cutoff to Colorado Highway 149 would appear preferable to the Sapinero (Road 3014) cutoff we took.

We set up our camp at Spring Creek Pass about 17 miles SE of Lake City on the Continental Divide at 10,898 feet at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, July 11, 1999, 126 beautiful miles from Paonia. From above our camp we could see four of Colorado’s 14,000 footers as well as Baldy Cinco just under that. Our task was to survey Colorado Trail hikers as the CT crosses Forest Road 726 into Camp Hale, reading “Do Not Enter This Area. Danger Archery Range.” From that point, for some two miles to the East Fork Campground, they had strung a rope along the east side of 724 with similar signs. So naturally, Jim drove into the campground, among wall-to-wall pickup trucks and sought out the head-type hunter. Raul Contreras was instantly cooperative, especially when Jim changed to Spanish with him, when he learned of the problem posed for any through-hikers. He said he would (and did) go back up and change the sign to be below the trail crossing so CT hikers would not be confused—the CBA activities being south and east of the CT, except for a short section where they were camped along the CT south of our new turnpike. It was an interesting sight—mostly family groups with different club areas identified into A, B, and C sections, each with its own Oh-boys and Waste Management trash containers, all well organized.

Our Maintenance Crew 13 leader, Julie Mesdag, came to Spring Creek Pass and camped with us two nights to our delight. She and Jim did a Friday hike from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. up to Snow Mesa at over 12,000 feet, while Mague “manned the store.” Naturally, Julie and Jim did some maintenance work on cairns and signs along the way; both are a little masochistic. Otherwise they enjoyed that part of Section 33, and especially the huge old cairns maintained by CT adopter Ken Stagner.

We noted, almost without exception, the people through-hiking the trail were college grads! Interesting. The one big exception was the group of 10 recent HS grads being led by three college students on a week hike based out of Wilderness Ranch, Creede, CO. Julie took photos of them strung out coming across Snow Mesa. The last night out, Friday, they camped just below tree line, and each had to seek out their individual campsite away from the others and do their own supper from whatever they had (with no prior notice). They all came down to Spring Creek about noon and didn’t use the pit toilets! They were a bunch of “buff” kids from Michigan, and Jim used their cameras to take some 10 individual group photos. Nice group, as were most all hikers we met up there. An interesting one-time experience. The experience was highlighted by that hike with Julie and the fantastic views from Snow Mesa. So it rained a bit—well, all Sunday p.m. and night, otherwise typical Colorado p.m. showers. Just recall if you visit Spring Creek Pass it does get COLD up there at night—even in mid-July. The long sleeves and long pants rule still applies, unless you are young buff HS Grads!
When people ask me to sum up my Colorado Trail experience, I say this: just when you think that it can’t get any worse, it does, and just when you think that it can’t get any better, it does.

When I thought the sky could rain no more, it did. With a 35-day stretch of daily rain, we were only five days short of a Great Flood. My feet sloshed, my tent leaked, and my raingear gave out. I rarely saw the stars. I rarely saw the sun. However, the hours spent inside the tent provided extra camp bonding. Our camp consisted of one two-man tent and two bivy sacks, but on particularly rainy afternoons our bivy buddies joined us in the tent. Imagine three men and a little lady crammed into a two-man tent after nine days without a shower. That tent will never smell the same.

Despite the rain, the trip grew progressively better. CT through-hikers know that hiking from Denver to Durango is like eating broccoli before dessert. Dropping into Elk Creek was the hot fudge sundae of the trail. With its cliffside lakes, neck-high wildflowers, and cascading falls I thought perhaps I had been struck by lightning, died, and gone to heaven.

Although the beauty and isolation of the trail provided a fine setting for a life-changing experience, I learned the most from the people I call the Wanderers: a 63-year-old retired Army sergeant named Arnie; Amy, an AT veteran from Oklahoma; my hiking partners, Joe, Patrick, and Randy; and all of the CT hikers who can’t seem to hike the wandering itch away. This community of hikers showed me the wanderer in myself. Being only 18 years-old, I discovered it early. Now, I look forward to my future wanderings as I travel to Ireland this fall to study, then to Vermont to attend Middlebury College, and, finally, to tread new trails, perhaps in the East. Even more, I look forward to a life of meeting new Wanderers like those produced by The Colorado Trail.

[Editor’s Note: Kelly Heaney, an 18-year-old Arapaho High School 1999 graduate, through-hiked the CT this past summer. She completed the trail in 49 days, with 7 days off. How remarkable for someone so young to have the initiative to complete the trail. We hope to hear again from Kelly as she continues on her life journey.]
# Completion Plaques and Certificates Awarded in 1999

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* Completed on horseback. All others hiked.

This is a list of all the completion certificates and plaques handled by **Paul Berteau** in 1999; so, of course, some of these completed the trail prior to 1999. Please notify him at the phone number or address below if you or someone you know has completed The Colorado Trail.

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Paul Berteau  
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Phone: (303) 745-3490  
Fax: (303) 368-9577
Buzz Burrell and I began our attempt to break Dale Garland & Co.’s 11-year-old record on the CT (17 days) at 5:08 a.m. on July 23 at the Denver end of the trail. We were supported and paced by a number of people, but the primary support crew consisted of my wife Stephanie Ehret and her parents Dick and Cynthia, and videographer and CT enthusiast Dave Good. Buzz completed the trek to Durango in 11 days + 16:13. I was forced to quit running after eight days (330 miles) because of an injury to my left quad. I then became a member of the support crew and worked to help Buzz get quickly and safely down the trail. The CT is an absolutely classic route through the high mountains of Colorado. The average elevation is roughly 10,000 feet, and the high point is 13,334 feet. According to the official guidebook, the trail is about 475 miles long, and there is about 74,000 feet of climbing. The actual length is subject to debate and is probably longer as only part of the trail has been rolled (the rest was measured off a map, notoriously short). The actual elevation gain is definitely much greater because the small ups and downs are not accounted for by measurement from a contour map. On one day I recall that Buzz’s altimeter watch registered 6,100 feet of climb when we were supposed to have only 3,700 feet (that was an “easy” day). These are the statistics, but the reality of the trail is so much more! It is nearly 500 miles of remote single-track trail (very little road) through some of the most stunningly beautiful mountain lands in the USA. The landscape, wildflowers, and sky were a constant source of inspiration for us during the run. We also were much buoyed by meeting many through-hikers and others along the trail. Our run, which was also a fund-raiser and awareness-raiser for the CT, received a fair amount of media attention in Colorado, so many people had heard of us. The response was overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging. The logistics of supporting a record attempt on the CT are difficult, and if Buzz’s record stands for a long time (I would not be surprised!), this may be the main reason. Many trailheads are remote even from small mountain towns. Access is particularly difficult in the San Juan Mountains of SW Colorado. For the last two days, we relied entirely on 4WD. The length of the trail (12 days, as compared to 5 days for the John Muir Trail or the Long Trail) means that the support crew must make a major time commitment. We were extraordinarily fortunate to find absolutely dedicated and capable support for the full trip with a small crew. Without this, the trip would have been impossible. Many others helped us along the way. Kurt Blumberg, Bill Perkins, Todd Holmes, Kirk Apt, Rick Trujillo, Virginia Egger, Larry Ridgeway, and several others paced us along various segments. Stephanie also ran about 180 miles of the trail with us, including two of the most difficult segments (rough terrain and bad weather) with Buzz near the end of the trip.

After I quit running, Buzz persevered through some very difficult conditions. In the San Juans, the terrain is rough, high, and remote. Buzz suffered constantly during the last four days from stomach problems and was able to eat very little. The weather turned sour during the last two days with steady, cold rain which chilled even those of us who were well fed and rested, and made the trail a slippery mess. Buzz was slowed somewhat by these conditions but never lost focus or drive. He seemed to draw energy from the beautiful and majestic surroundings; he continued to interest himself in the identification of flowers, plants, and mushrooms, and to observe the changes in vegetation as he climbed and descended through climate zones. He really enjoyed the company of friends when they were with him on the trail but ran contentedly alone when no pacers were available.

Finally, I want to thank our sponsors: Land Rover of Boulder, Patagonia, Wild Oats, Saucony, Bison Sportslights, and Podium custom footwear and orthotics. And I want to especially thank the Colorado Trail Foundation for establishing this wonderful resource for everyone to use.

Report on The Colorado Trail Run, and Thank You from the Runners
by Peter Bakwin
Webmaster, continued from page 27

into digital form and would be happy to have someone come and use them at my apartment while I work on the GIS project software on my other computers. Anyone who can assist with these items can call me at (720) 283-8752 or send me e-mail at nolde@ctf.coloradotrail.org.

Important Notice to Friends:

The Denver Public Library Western History Department has requested a complete set of Tread Lines. If you yourself have one that you wouldn’t mind donating or know of someone who might have a set, please contact the CTF Office or just send the newsletters to the office. Even if the set is incomplete in spots, perhaps we could piece together a set. Thank you!

Pre-Holiday Sale on Colorado Trail T-Shirts!

25th Anniversary shirts as well as blue, jade green, and brick short-sleeved T-shirts on sale for $9!!!

At that price, you can buy one for each member of the family, for friends and coworkers, as well as for yourself!

Order yours today from the CT Store or pick them up at the CTF Office!

Gudy Gaskill and Lyle Laverty, District Ranger, Rocky Mountain Regional Office,
at ribbon cutting, South Platte River Bridge Dedication, June 6, 1999
The Colorado Trail Cookbook
Recipes from the homes and trails of CT Friends

The recipes and stories celebrating 25 years of shared experiences along The Colorado Trail have been published and are now on sale.

Special features: 300 recipes including Appetizers, Soups and Salads, Main Dish and Casseroles, Cookies and Desserts and Backpack and Crew.
Attractive vinyl cover, 3-ring binder format
Artwork by Gudy Gaskill and others

Cost: $15.00 (plus $3.00 shipping and tax)

How to Purchase:

Send check for $18.00 (made out to The Colorado Trail Foundation) to:

The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th St. #210
Golden, CO 80401-1022

Cookbooks may also be purchased at Pots Etc, located in the SW Plaza Shopping Mall
And Westminster Mall and in Durango at Maria’s Bookshop.

This is a fundraising project for The Colorado Trail Foundation
Questions? Call the CT office at: (303) 384-3729, ext. 113.
The Colorado Trail Store
All proceeds provide important support for The Colorado Trail.

Send Orders to The Colorado Trail Foundation
710 10th Street, Suite 210
Golden, CO 80401-1022
website address: http://www.coloradotrail.org
e-mail address: ctf@ctf.coloradotrail.org

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<tr>
<td>The Colorado Trail: The Official Guidebook</td>
<td>22.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Along The Colorado Trail by John Fielder and M. John Fayhee</td>
<td>35.00</td>
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<td>Day Hikes on The Colorado Trail by Jan Robertson</td>
<td>6.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Colorado Trail,” Recording by Carol Johnson</td>
<td>5.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topographic waterproof maps (1996 Revision), 11” x 17” format</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT Data Book</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT Note Cards and Envelopes</td>
<td>4.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT Completion Patches (embroidered)</td>
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<td>Official pin</td>
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<td>Short Sleeves: New Design; CT map on front; trail segment descriptions, including length and elevation gain, are printed on the back. 100% cotton.</td>
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<td>Jade Green</td>
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<td>Sky Blue</td>
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<td>Long Sleeves: Crew neck and embroidered logo.</td>
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<td>CT Wall Map</td>
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<td>CT Golf Cap</td>
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All prices are listed postpaid. Colorado residents add 4.3% tax.

Please allow 3–4 weeks for delivery.

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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."

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Benefits for Friends of the Colorado Trail include:
Quarterly Newsletter  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 ____________________________________________
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The Foundation invites you to join in making The Colorado Trail an educational and recreational reality . . .