A Year of Change

The year just passed has been one of great change and great accomplishment for The Colorado Trail Foundation, but it has also been one of great loss. Sadness and my best wishes accompany the retirement of Gudy Gaskill from the Board of Directors and as President of the CTF. (See letter on page 3.) Gudy’s vision and leadership over the past 25 years are the reason The Colorado Trail exists as the premier long-distance hiking trail in Colorado. We will all miss her leadership but also realize that her work for the Foundation will continue behind the scenes.

Thank you, Gudy, for your incredible efforts on

Mark June 5th and 6th on Your Calendar!

The Colorado Trail Foundation will celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Colorado Trail on June 5, 1999 (National Trails Day) with day-long festivities on Lookout Mountain. The celebration will include a sit-down buffet and many new displays, including a new video, a new data book, a guide to the Gunnison Spur, a CT diorama, a visual walk-through with maps and pictures, a commemorative poster, a new historic song by storyteller and singer Julie Davis, displays of historic documents and awards, door prizes, and stories of hardships and trail tales. Mark this date on your calendar. Tickets may be purchased through the CT office after April 1. Watch for more exciting details in the spring edition of Tread Lines.
behalf of all those who have enjoyed The Colorado Trail experience and who will continue using the trail in the future.

Bridge Funding

Our greatest accomplishment for 1998 was the completion of the South Platte bridge, as was reported in the fall issue of Tread Lines. This project has depleted our finances rather badly, but with the grant monies now having been received from the Colorado State Parks Department, we will start to rebuild our funds. We were awarded a grant for $95,000 from the lottery funds. This amount covers about half the out-of-pocket expenses for the bridge. Our Friends of The Colorado Trail have donated generously this year, and as we ask for your continued support in 1999, please give what you can to help pay for this tremendous project.

New Office

In the area of change, our new office in the American Mountaineering Center in Golden has been very successful. We are very visible next to the Colorado Mountain Club offices and have enjoyed the visits of many people to the AMC. The office is open from 9:30 to 5:30, Monday thru Friday, all year long.
Dear Friends of The Colorado Trail,

As we start this new year and plan to celebrate our 25th anniversary, we also close a significant chapter in the history of The Colorado Trail. Gudy has decided to retire from her position as President of The Colorado Trail Foundation and from the board of directors. She says she “leaves with no qualms” and is looking forward to spending time with her family, while having more time to pursue travel and personal interests. For two years now, Gudy says she has had this new motor home in her driveway, and it hasn’t gone anywhere; well, after 25 years she has surely earned the opportunity for some “off the trail” time! Gudy plans to gradually phase out her in-field leadership, would like to continue to work with our educational programs, and plans to lead an Elderhostel crew and educational courses this coming summer.

The principal theme of our 25th anniversary celebration this year will be commemorating Gudy’s 25 years of visionary leadership and tireless dedication to making The Colorado Trail an educational and recreational reality. Her sacrifice stands far above any other and has been THE critical factor in attracting and bringing together thousands of volunteers over two decades to create and preserve this unique treasure, The Colorado Trail. She can never be replaced; her commitment will never be equaled.

As the interim president and a longtime Gudy Gaskill fan, I want to express both my personal thanks and the thanks of the board and others active in the Foundation. We certainly will miss her charisma and dedication. Perhaps the biggest challenge we now face is finding someone to fill her shoes; if you’ve worked with Gudy, you know that is nearly impossible.

We have many leadership and volunteer opportunities available both on the board and with our Friends, Public Relations, Education, Operations, Government Liaison, and Business Committees. If you’ve ever desired to become more involved with this wonderful community of Colorado Trail Friends, your offer of help will be graciously accepted and is highly desired! Key opportunities include public relations, grants/funding, legal counsel, trail crew leadership, graphic design, educational course development (for youth and adults), equestrian ambassadors, and mountain bike ambassadors.

So, help us honor Gudy by perpetuating and finishing her dream to preserve The Colorado Trail as a family-oriented, educational, recreational, non-motorized trail. We hope you will join with us in the 25th anniversary celebrations planned all along The Colorado Trail. Mark your calendar now to attend our special June 5th celebration, where you can personally thank Gudy for her incredible accomplishments; and on June 6th, join us in the new South Platte River bridge dedication.

Your past support and future participation has been, and will continue to be, essential to the preservation of this special trail. In the coming years, we hope to reach out to all users of The Colorado Trail, listening to and encouraging more equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers to become a part of The Colorado Trail community. If you’ve ever thought, “Why doesn’t The Colorado Trail do this?,” we’d welcome your suggestions and energy bringing those wonderful ideas into fruition!

For more information on how you can help, to offer your skills or talents, or to share your ideas for enhancing and preserving The Colorado Trail, please feel free to contact any board member or Denise in the office. Thank you so much for your support and involvement over the years! Each one of you is a special friend and continues to make a lasting contribution to this wonderful community as Friends of The Colorado Trail. Have a wonderful and Happy New Year!

George Miller, Interim President
1998 WRAP-UP

What a wonderful place to be if you thrive on being in the thick of things! After juggling 1,000s of phone calls, e-mails, and office contacts this year, I have all the admiration in the world for Gudy and her accomplishments! Just take a quick look at the events or changes we’ve seen in the last four months of the year.

If you haven’t checked out our website recently, you’re in for a real treat! With many new features and expanded content, Richard Nolde and associate David Sears have completely overhauled our site and are still dreaming up improvements! Did you know you can now view and post comments on CT trail conditions?

Late this year, two key volunteers turned over two very time-consuming business jobs (mail answering and bookkeeping) to the office. Our need for help was immediate, but then some wonderful volunteers came to our aid. Providentially, one week later Suzanne Reed offered to take over for volunteer Tom Grover (who moved to England) and now opens dozens of letters received each week. A couple weeks later, former CT bookkeeper Liz Truitt offered to help with bookkeeping. These two volunteers are a godsend and delightful to work with. THANK YOU, LADIES!!

September 26th: Dedication of the Mancos Spur—CT board member Ted La May represented the CTF for the dedication of our second spur to The Colorado Trail. For more than 10 years, local volunteers, CT trail crews, and most recently Americorps crews have worked to link the community of Mancos with the CT. Mac Neely, Mancos community volunteer coordinator, says you catch the Mancos spur at Jackson Lake, then take the Chicken Creek trail to its intersection with The Colorado Trail.

October 2–3: Mortar Board Trail Crew—In a whirlwind trip, Sally Stedman, Section Coordinator for Mortar Board groups from colleges in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado, brought together about 50 students for a day’s work on The Colorado Trail. Under the direction of CT leaders Jim Miller, Harriot Patton, and me as well as USFS staff Holly English, John Kelley, and Alissa Roeder, these energetic honor students did some wonderful work repairing mountain bike damage above the Gold Hill Trail Head. Up to a mile of trail was narrowed from its current 8-foot width by removing rocks in the center to delineate a clearer, smoother path, then filling in the sides to minimize riding on the outside edges of the trail. Numerous “bike friendly” rolling grade dips were constructed to facilitate water runoff, and two turnpikes were installed over boggy spots. Special mention goes to Glenn Fee of Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado for his immeasurable help supplying more than 50 tools for our project and to George Miller for outfitting our group with complete kitchens, cook tents, and group tents.

October 8–10: Colorado Trails Symposium—Every other year, this symposium is held to bring together trails groups, land and trails agencies, and outdoor nonprofits. I made personal connections with leaders in many mountain bike groups such as IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association), Bicycle Colorado, TCS (Trail Conservation Services and CT Adopters of Section 1.0), and Trails 2000 (CT Adopters out of Durango); other trails groups such as VOC (Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado) and Gunnison County Trails Commission; horse groups such as COHOCO (Colorado Horse Council); and motorized groups such as COHVCO (Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition). It was an invaluable opportunity to network with a number of key players and organizations in the trails community, listen to trails and issues solutions, and build relationships.

October 24: John Fielder and Julie Davis Present a Colorado Trail Medley, The Colorado Trail in Story, Song, and Pictures—What a beautiful evening was shared by more than 180 supporters of the CT! It was hard not to get right up and hit the trail! Our first event in the American Mountaineering Center’s auditorium came off without a hitch thanks to CMC A/V volunteer Keith Jensen! Volunteers again made this a success with ticket and product sales help from Liz Harris, Lila Miller, George Miller, Nora Jacques and friend Mary Ann, Peggy Bracket and

View from The Colorado Trail Office
by Denise Wright

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Greg Douglas, and ushers Sally Fletemier and Nancy Stephenson. Because of your support and John’s and Julie’s generosity, we raised more than $2,800 that night for The Colorado Trail!

September–December: Gunnison Spur Threatened—A report comes in to the office from Joellen Fonken of the Gunnison County Trails Commission indicating that the private land over which the Ridgeline Trail/Colorado Trail Gunnison Spur trail begins is now for sale. The landowners are looking for a quick sale that threatens this trailhead. Joellen’s all-volunteer group mobilized letters of support from many community members, from CT board members Darla Deruiter and Ernie Werren, and from me as CT staff, then submits an emergency grant proposal to GOCO for $35,000 to help purchase the property. By early December, we hear GOCO has awarded them this grant, thus ensuring the trailhead is saved!

Fall 1999: CT Route Threatened by Copper Mountain Land Swap—This past fall, the CTF learned Copper Mountain Ski Area was proposing a land swap with the USFS that would privatize a key section of the CT at the bridge crossing on Ten Mile Creek near Wheeler Junction. Ernie Werren, CT board member and Summit County resident, has been acting as point person, representing the concerns of the CTF. Discussions are still progressing between the ski area and the USFS, but it is possible there will be a CT routing change of some sort with segments 7 and 8 in the next few years.

December 30–31: Laura and Michael Martin Murphey’s Vertical Ski Challenge, Berthoud Pass and Silver Creek Ski Areas—Michael Martin Murphey continued his support of the Colorado Trail by partnering with these two ski areas in a benefit for the CT. Steve Bromberg of Berthoud and Kelly Howard of Silver Creek graciously contributed more than $470 for support of The Colorado Trail.

COMING IN 1999

What an exciting year we have ahead of us. It holds many new opportunities plus a solid lineup of continuing or expanding programs for spring, summer, and fall.

1999 Summer Crews, Treks, and Classes—Working through last summer and into this fall, Trail Crew Coordinator Ernie Werren and Government Liaison Coordinator Ted La May have put together a diverse selection of 11 week-long trail crews. George and Lila Miller are planning 6 week-long treks starting at Kenosha Pass and hiking 6 consecutive weeks toward Durango. Trek sizes are smaller this year due to group size restrictions while traveling through wilderness areas, so don’t delay registration if you’re interested in participating. Gudy has also put together 4 weeks of summer Educational Courses (Geology, Flora, Watercolors, and A Colorado Medley) and is leading another special trail crew for the Elderhostel program.

Volunteer Helpers Needed—We need one person to help with educational class registrations.

Call me in the office at (303) 384-3729, x113. We also need trek food purchasing/packing help. Call Lila Miller in Manitou Springs at (719) 685-1278.

CT Database Project—A small team under the direction of former trekker Rick Tronvig (database consultant) has begun a review of our current database systems and future needs. Only good things can come out of this mind-stretching process.

CT Community Cookbook—Suzanne Reed is heading up this delightful cookbook project dedicated to Gudy Gaskill and designed to bring together your favorite recipes while reminiscing on trail stories and celebrating our special Colorado Trail Friends community. See the one-page insert on page 30 in this issue of Tread Lines how you can help this wonderful project be a success. Additional committee members include Irene Cazer, Pat Nagorka, Uta McDonald, Marilyn Eisele, Jill Ozaki, and others! All profits benefit The Colorado Trail.

New Completion Plaque—Paul Berteau has worked with Timberline Graphics to create a beautiful new wood completion plaque. Our new design includes a map of the CT, with segments listed below that you can cross off as you complete them. Look for the unveiling and additional information in our spring issue of Tread Lines and during 25th Anniversary celebrations in June. Every CT Friend who has seen the new plaque design wants one!
Annual Board of Directors Meeting—All friends of The Colorado Trail are invited to attend our annual board meeting at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 6. We will meet in the Baker/Scheid classroom, top floor of the American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th St., Golden, Colorado. From the outside, the building is still identified as Golden Jr. High School, so don’t be fooled. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., with coffee and refreshments.

25th Anniversary Events—Complete details will be included in our Spring Tread Lines, due in home mid-May. Look for our main celebration event June 5 at Mt. Vernon Country Club above Golden, June 6 Dedication of the South Platte River Bridge, June 12 ceremonies in Gunnison, and Summit County and Durango events this summer (dates still to be determined). Volunteer helpers are still needed for all events. In Durango, contact Ken Marshall at (970) 247-2716; in Summit County, contact Ernie Werren at (970) 262-2549.

EMS Fund Raiser Kicks Off Our 25th Anniversary—Steve Jones, manager of the EMS Park Meadows store, is putting together a special evening celebration and benefit fund raiser for the CTF’s 25th Anniversary year. The event will be held on Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Alcatraz Brewery at Park Meadows. There will be a dinner and slide presentation featuring John Fielder and Gudy Gaskill and others. In conjunction with Steve’s efforts, the CTF is planning a special trail crew for EMS customers this May. Details available at the EMS Park Meadows store—(303) 790-0760—or through the CTF website.

FAST Run on the CT (500 miles in 11 Days???)—Buzz Burrell and Peter Bawkin seek to raise funds and increase support for the CT this summer in their attempt to establish a new “fast times” record for running the trail; the previous known record is 17 days. With a strong support team and emphasis on minimum-impact travel methods, these two environmentally conscious runners look forward to the “ultimate” personal challenge. This spring you’ll find additional information in Tread Lines and on our website.

Michael Martin Murphey Trail Rides Raise Support for the CT—1999 is the second of five years Michael Martin Murphey and Trail Partner Willard Forman are holding fund-raising trail rides on the CT. The August 22–26 ride from Kenosha Pass to Twin Lakes is already full, but Willard’s trail outfit is offering an earlier ride on The Colorado Trail the week before. Riding from Waterton Canyon to Kenosha Pass, August 11–19, this Summit Trail Adventures ride will include Native American flutist Bill Miller. Willard extends a special thank you to longtime CT Friend Clare Gambel for his assistance and support during last year’s trail ride on this segment. For additional information about these rides or other trail rides planned across the western United States by Summit Trail Adventures, contact Willard Forman by phone at (303) 670-9758 or try e-mailing him at Adam6150@aol.com, or check out the website at http://www.summittrails.com.

Colorado Trail Summer Hosts Needed—This summer, hosts are needed between July 1 and September 30 to assist the CTF in collecting information from hikers about their experience on The Colorado Trail. Working as a representative of the CTF and in cooperation with the USFS, hosts would camp at Spring Creek Pass between Lake City and Creede, provide information about the CT, keep the small 5-space picnic/campsite clean, and answer questions about the trail. For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Ted La May by phone at (970) 259-3308, by e-mail at 105521.1206@compuserve.com, or by mail at 2424 Columbine Dr., Durango, CO 81301.

Michael Martin Murphey Benefit Concert and Silent Auction Supports the CT—Timed to coincide with this summer’s WestFest event in Silver Creek Colorado August 28–September 6, Michael Martin Murphey, Trail Partner Willard Forman, and CT supporter Bob Zinn are scheduling a special benefit concert and silent auction to help raise funds to support The Colorado Trail. The location is still to be announced, but the concert and auction date is tentatively planned for Friday, September 3. Watch for more details in the spring issue of Tread Lines and CT website by mid-May.
Thanks to a Great Helper!

In June 1998, my sister-in-law, Nancy Nichols of Geneva, Nebraska, came to Colorado on vacation for a week. As I was having trouble with walking and standing for long periods, she pitched in to help with the food for the treks. She helped to write lists, check them, and recheck them and then made some more lists to check.

She shopped, carried, stacked, packed, and cooked. Without her invaluable help, the treks may have been without some items. Everyone who went on a trek benefited from her hard work!

After she went home, she wrote to thank ME for her great vacation! Here is a big Colorado Trail thank you to Nancy for all of her hard work!

Safety Class

Safety in all areas is an ongoing concern for The Colorado Trail Foundation. Our thanks to Nona Gladbach, nurse-practitioner, who volunteered to teach a Mountain Oriented First Aid class to the trek staff.

The MOFA course is a specialized field of first aid for those who venture into the mountains where medical help may be distant. The class emphasizes specific skills required in the event of an emergency, pre-trip preparation, and the correct response required in case of an injury.

Special emphasis is placed on prevention of injuries, proper foot care, hydration needs, and natural dangers—for example, lightning, animals, etc. All of the staff felt that the class gave them the practical information they needed and the confidence to meet any situation. Nona taught the class with great skill, humor, and professionalism.

Nona and her husband, Steve, are longtime supporters of The Colorado Trail Foundation. Steve was one of the founders of the trekking program and has led many groups on treks.

We appreciate Nona’s donation of her time and expertise.

Trek Help Needed

Help in shopping, preparing food, and packing for the treks is needed this summer by two or three volunteers in the Colorado Springs area. The food for the treks is purchased in mid-June. This takes two to three mornings. Preparing and cooking the meat, and packaging for the freezer takes two to three mornings also. Packing for each trek is done each week and takes one morning every week.

If you live in the Colorado Springs area and would like to help with any of these essential jobs, please call Lila Miller at (719) 685-1278.
1999 COLORADO TRAIL TREKS

We will be offering 6 weeks of supported treks on THE COLORADO TRAIL during the summer of 1999. Trekkers will be able to hike with only a day pack, while the support crew will transport your personal gear from campsite to campsite, and set up and operate the community camp each night.

*****Note: Elevation gains are rough estimates which include only the major climbs; some days may have as much as 20% more. Hiking The Colorado Trail involves lots of climbing. Remember you are starting at high elevations and adding elevations. Example: starting at Kenosha Pass where the elevation is 10,000' and ending at Georgia Pass where the elevation is 12,000', the elevation gain is 2,000'.*****

SECTION 2 KENOSHA PASS TO CAMP HALE

Moderate Difficulty with two advanced days—limit 17

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>SU</td>
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<td>Meet for Week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>Kenosha Pass to Georgia Pass</td>
<td>12/2200</td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>7/6</td>
<td>Georgia Pass to North Fork of Swan River</td>
<td>10/2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>North Fork of Swan River to Highway 9</td>
<td>15/1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Highway 9 to Copper Mountain</td>
<td>13/3800</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>7/9</td>
<td>Copper Mountain to Camp Hale</td>
<td>18/2600</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>7/10</td>
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SECTION 3 CAMP HALE TO CLEAR CREEK

Moderate Difficulty—limit 12

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<td>Meet for Week 2</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>Camp Hale to Wurtz Ditch</td>
<td>09/900</td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>7/13</td>
<td>Wurtz Ditch to Lake Fork</td>
<td>08/1160</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>7/14</td>
<td>Lake Fork to Half Moon Campground</td>
<td>13/1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>Half Moon Campground to Twin Lakes</td>
<td>11/1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>Twin Lakes to Clear Creek</td>
<td>18/3400</td>
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<td>SA</td>
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SECTION 4 CLEAR CREEK TO MARSHALL PASS

Moderate Difficulty—limit 12

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<tr>
<td>SU</td>
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<td>Meet for Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>7/19</td>
<td>Clear Creek to North Cottonwood Creek</td>
<td>18/3700</td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>7/20</td>
<td>North Cottonwood Creek to Middle Cottonwood</td>
<td>07/2900</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Middle Cottonwood to Princeton Hot Springs</td>
<td>16/1100</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Princeton Hot Springs to Goat Wadi</td>
<td>17/1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>7/23</td>
<td>Goat Wadi to Marshall Pass</td>
<td>17/3200</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>7/24</td>
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SECTION 5 MARSHALL PASS TO SAN LUIS PASS

Moderate Difficulty with one advanced day—limit 12

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<td>SU</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>7/26</td>
<td>Marshall Pass to Sargents Mesa</td>
<td>14/3200</td>
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<td>TU</td>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Sargents Mesa to Lujan Creek</td>
<td>20/1900</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>7/28</td>
<td>Lujan Creek to Saguache Park Road</td>
<td>13/800</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>7/29</td>
<td>Saguache Park Road to Eddiesville</td>
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SECTION 6  SAN LUIS PASS TO MOLAS PASS
Advanced Difficulty—limit 12

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<td>8/2</td>
<td>San Luis Pass to Spring Creek Pass</td>
<td>19/2700</td>
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<td>TU</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>Spring Creek Pass to Carson Saddle</td>
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<td>TH</td>
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<td>Rest Day</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>8/6</td>
<td>Beartown to Molas Pass</td>
<td>19/4000</td>
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SECTION 7  MOLAS PASS TO DURANGO
Moderate Difficulty with one advanced day—limit 17

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>Molas Pass to Bolam Pass</td>
<td>11/1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Bolam Pass to Hotel Draw</td>
<td>06/800</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>8/11</td>
<td>Hotel Draw to Orphan Butte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>8/12</td>
<td>Orphan Butte to Fassbinder Gulch</td>
<td>18/1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>8/13</td>
<td>Fassbinder Gulch to Durango (downhill)</td>
<td>19/(5000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>Disperse</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1999 REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

By March 5, call or write to LILA MILLER at the address below and request a registration form. Lila will send you a form by March 10. Return the registration form along with a $150 deposit per person per week by March 20. Friend and/or couples wishing to hike together should EACH fill out a registration form, noting on the form their hiking partner(s).

In order to be entered for a place on a trek, you MUST be a Friend of The Colorado Trail. To become a Friend, send a donation ($15 Senior/Student; $25 Individual; $50 Family; $75 Contributor; $100 Patron; $500 Supporter) in a separate check. [**Editor’s note: The CTF does not have memberships. It is sustained by the work of volunteers and donations of Friends of The Colorado Trail.]

On March 31 a lottery drawing will be held to fill slots on each trek. Results of the drawing will be mailed to you within 10 days. Indicating a second or third choice on the registration form will increase your chances of a slot. Persons not selected will have their original deposit check returned at this time and will be put on a waiting list for their chosen week(s).

COST is $450 per person per week (plus a donation for those who are not already a Friend of The Colorado Trail). **See Editor’s note.

The $150 registration fee as described above is due at the time of application to reserve a place on a trek. The balance of the cost is due no later than May 15. If your balance is not received by May 15, your space will be offered to a person on the waiting list, and you will receive your registration fee back, minus the cancellation fee. THERE WILL BE A $75 fee for canceling before June 1. After June 1, the cancellation fee is $125. Cancellations in the 2 weeks prior to your trek will not be refunded. Please be aware that your check may be slow in clearing your bank, as the volunteers who process the registrations and checks also work on other Colorado Trail business.

Make registration checks payable to: THE COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION
Make donation checks payable to: THE COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION

Send all checks and correspondence regarding trek registration to:
LILA MILLER: 840 Prospect Place, MANITOU SPRINGS, CO 80829
Phone: (719) 685-1278   Fax: (719) 685-5322
e-mail: cttreks@clsp.uswest.net
Outdoor Workshops Offered on The Colorado Trail

Summer 1999

Geology of the San Juans Outdoor Lab, Rocky Mountain Watercolor Workshop, Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, and A Colorado Medley are being offered by The Colorado Trail Foundation for their 1999 educational outdoor classroom series on The Colorado Trail. In its ninth year, the July and August week-long workshops are based on The Colorado Trail or at the Foundation’s Education Center southwest of Lake City, and are taught by instructors from Western State College of Gunnison, Fort Lewis College in Durango, and retired professors. The base camps, with meals provided, are operated by The Colorado Trail Foundation and are in superb mountain settings, with daily classroom hikes and excursions. The cost is $290 per week (excludes Elderhostel crew).

Geology of the San Juans Outdoor Lab
July 4–10

The base camp for the Geology Outdoor Lab will be at Little Molas Lake on Molas Pass between Silverton and Durango. The workshop will be taught by Dr. John Campbell from Fort Lewis College in Durango. The Lab can be taken for one graduate credit hour through the Colorado School of Mines. Molas Pass is in the center of a huge geologic upheaval, making this class a visual living history of millions of years. The week will be filled with fascinating excursions and hikes along The Colorado Trail. Bring your own tent and sleeping bag. All meals, transportation, and classroom material will be provided.

Elderhostel Service Project at Cottonwood Creek
July 11–17

Join other Senior Citizens on a special trail crew to rehabilitate the area between Rainbow Lake and Silver Prince Creek.

Rocky Mountain Watercolor Workshop
July 18–24

The Rocky Mountain Watercolor workshop will be held at the CTF Education Center southwest of Lake City, providing a full week of instruction and critique in a superb setting. Instruction will be by Margaret Barge, a well-known local artist from Durango. Participants must bring their own materials, tent, and sleeping bag. The CTF cabin will be used for inclement weather, meals preparation, and evening get-togethers. There will time for lots of painting, socializing, and sightseeing. The price includes all meals and instruction. No credit is available for this course. Space is limited.

Rocky Mountain Wildflowers
July 25–August 31

The Rocky Mountain Wildflower Seminar will be held at the CTF Education Center southwest of Lake City for a full week of field trips in the immediate vicinity. The Education Center is located on the BLM Scenic Alpine Byway and only minutes away from the incredible wildflower haven of American Basin, a photographer’s delight. Weather permitting, there will be a trip to the top of Cinnamon Pass to study the tiny elusive alpine tundra flowers. For those wishing it, a one-hour graduate credit is available through Colorado School of Mines. The class will be taught by Western State College professor Robin Bingham.

A Colorado Medley
August 1–7

A new seminar for 1999! This is a sample of all of the classes above, which will be held at the CTF Education Center southwest of Lake City. There will be one day of instruction in each of the classes on Geology, Watercolors, and Wildflowers,
as well as a day for hiking. (There are three 14,000-foot peaks with trailheads just minutes from the front deck of the cabin!) There will be evening campfire programs, great food, and hearty packed lunches. If you only have a week and would like to take all of the classes, this one will be a perfect sampler. Bring your own sleeping bag and tent. The cabin will be available for inclement weather.

**Contact Information**

To register for or get information about the CTF classes, contact The Colorado Trail Foundation by mail at 710 10th St. #210, Golden CO 80401-1022, by e-mail at ctf@www.coloradotrail.org, by phone at (303) 384-3729, x113 (24-hour voice mail), or by fax at (303) 384-3743.

For course content questions, contact **Darla DeRuiter** by writing to her at WSC Department of Kinesiology & Rec, Gunnison, CO 81231, by calling her at (970) 943-2292 (day phone), or by e-mailing her at dderuiter@western.edu.

To register or get information about the **Elderhostel service project**, call (877) 426-8056 after February 24 (course #62001-071099).

All workshops and the Elderhostel course will be managed and meals prepared by **Gudy Gaskill** ((303) 526-2721).

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**“Bridges”**

*by Clare Foote, Volunteer Worker and Hiker on the CT*

“Bridges,” a vital link between two places:

There’s the Golden Gate Bridge
- the Brooklyn Bridge
- the London Bridge
- the Covered Bridges
- the Bridges of Madison County
- the Bridge over the River Kwai

Then there’s Don’t Burn Your Bridges
- Washed Out Bridges
- and
- Critical Bridges

Now we are talking about the Bridge over the Platte River that is as vital to The Colorado Trail as all of the other bridges—it’s the link bringing travelers to our mountains.

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**The Colorado Trail Completion Awards**

You finally did it! You fulfilled that lifelong dream, completed The Colorado Trail, and now want a memento to commemorate your accomplishment. A FREE Completion Certificate is yours for the asking, listing your completion date and whether you hiked, biked, or rode horseback on The Colorado Trail! Or a beautiful Completion Plaque could adorn your wall for just $39.00! You can also purchase the “I Completed The Colorado Trail” completion patch, available through The Colorado Trail Store for $3.60. For those who are still working on completing The Colorado Trail, we offer 200-mile club and 300-mile club pins ($2.50 per pin). Retain the memories—contact the CT office about ordering your plaque, pin, or certificate today! Send your clearly printed name, address, and phone number, along with your date of completion and mode of travel (hike, bike, or horseback), to the CTF address listed on page 2.
January 1999

Dear Friends of The Colorado Trail,

We are pleased to announce our 1999 Colorado Trail Volunteer Work Crew Schedule. This summer we have scheduled 11 week-long trail crews to provide you an opportunity to help us continue work on The Colorado Trail system. We invite you to join as many crews as you wish; everyone is welcome! Also see our vehicle-supported 1999 Colorado Trail Summer Trek Schedule.

**Brief overview of what to expect:** To work on a trail crew, you must be at least 16 years of age and in good physical condition; young people will be accepted if accompanied by an adult. Our experience indicates caution is advised when bringing children since most find all-day trail building boring. No previous trail-building experience is required. All you need bring are your sleeping bag, tent, eating utensils, work clothing, and personal items. The Colorado Trail Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service furnish food, cooking utensils, hard hats, tools, and supplies.

All participants share in the work of setting up camp on Saturday, daily camp chores, meal preparation, and general camp cleanup. Trail crews are highly participatory, and all volunteers are encouraged to join into daily camp life, from helping in the cook tent, to building trail, to enjoying the evening campfire.

To begin the week, you will need to meet early Saturday afternoon, unless otherwise noted. Some time on Sunday will be devoted to safety demonstrations and an introduction to trail building; the rest of the day will be free. Workdays are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; Wednesdays are free for hiking, fishing, resting, or enjoying the great outdoors. The week typically ends on Saturday morning, with some crews helping to pack up equipment after breakfast when camp needs to be moved to another site.

**How to Register:** 1) When signing up, please indicate your choice of dates and work locations, specifying Crew Number, Date, and Crew Name. (You can join more than one crew.) If more than one person is registering (e.g., couples or a group of friends), use a separate sheet of paper for each person. 2) Send the registration request(s), together with your $35-per-person registration fee payable to The Colorado Trail Foundation, to the office address noted above. Please note: should you later cancel your reservation, the $35 registration fee is nonrefundable.

**Confirmation of Your Registration:** We will confirm your reservation in writing within 30 days. Later, we will send you directions so you can make travel arrangements to your crew’s meeting place. About four weeks before your crew begins, we will send a packet containing details of what to bring, emergency telephone numbers, and a crew roster, should you want to share a ride, need a ride, etc.

We truly appreciate your volunteering your time and talents to preserve The Colorado Trail as Colorado’s premier educational, recreational, family-oriented trail. We look forward to seeing you this summer and warmly welcome you into the community of Friends of The Colorado Trail.

Thank you very much for your support - The Colorado Trail Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service!!
This year we are commemorating 25 years of volunteerism coming together to build and maintain The Colorado Trail! Special plans are in the works for our 1999 programs with celebrations and unique events anticipated all along the trail. This summer we’re offering 11 week-long trail crews located in 5 forest service districts. Our schedule includes “Drive-in,” “Jeep-in,” or “Backpack” crews, with work locations and dates listed below. Meeting times for all crews are planned early in the afternoon of the first Saturday, with volunteers responsible for their own transportation to the meeting place.

“Drive-in” designations are crews where a conventional auto can be driven directly to the trail crew campsite. “Jeep-in” means the camp is not normally accessible by conventional vehicles or that muddy roads may preclude taking conventional vehicles to the campsite. You will be provided a place to park at the meeting site, and 4wd vehicles will provide transportation from that point to camp. If too few 4wd vehicles are available, you may be asked to hike in to the campsite. In this case, your gear will be transported for you. If you have a 4wd vehicle, you may drive yourself and others in as long as parking space is available. “Backpack” designation means that your camp has no road access. You will be expected to pack your gear (tent, sleeping bag, personal gear, etc.) into these camps with your own backpack. Pack animals will carry the camp’s community food and cooking equipment only; you must carry your own personal necessities. Mountain bicyclists are encouraged to participate in backpacking work crews unless the work is in a wilderness area.

TO REGISTER: If you have a registration form, please fill in all lines on it. Indicate your crew choice by circling the crew number, then choosing a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th choice, should your first crew be full. Also, you may sign up for more than one crew for the single $35-per-person registration fee by circling the crew numbers and writing on the registration form the Crew Number, Date, and Crew Name of additional crews. Payment must accompany your registration form, with checks payable to The Colorado Trail Foundation (note in the lower left corner of the check Registration Fee.) We will confirm your reservation by mail within 30 days.

Crews are filled on a first come, first served basis depending on the registration fee receipt date. If you are confirmed for one of your requested crews, the registration fee becomes nonrefundable.

Our registrars, Jon and Marylin Greeneisen, will be glad to advise you on the status of any crew during the registration period and can be reached by phone/fax (303) 221-5620.

### Week-Long Volunteer Trail Crews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crew</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Crew Name, Ranger District, Leader Name/Ph</th>
<th>Description of Work and Base Camps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>June 19–26</td>
<td>Mt Elbert Leadville RD Ldr: Phil Smith 303-688-9638</td>
<td>Drive-in: Trail maintenance between Half'Moon Creek and Twin Lakes Reservoir. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Camp elevation 10,400'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>July 3–10</td>
<td>Cochetopa Hills Saguache RD Ldr: Phil Smith 303-688-9638</td>
<td>Drive-in: Trail rehabilitation along the crest of the Continental Divide in the vicinity of Sargents Mesa. Camp near Spanish Creek crossing, with work site a 3-mile jeep drive then short hike to trail. Camp elevation 9200'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>July 10–17</td>
<td>Gold Hill Dillon RD Ldr: Larry O'Donnell 303-355-5613</td>
<td>Jeep-in: Trail rehabilitation east from top of Gold Hill. Improve drainage and delineate trail. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Camp at Gold Hill and work at elevations from 9800' to 10,300'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>July 17–24</td>
<td>Indian Trail Ridge, Columbine RD, Ldr: Ken Marshall (970-247-2716)</td>
<td><strong>Jeep-in:</strong> Complete trail renovation from 1997. Lots of walking; work site is 2–4 miles from camp, with elevations as high as 12,200'. Camp at end of FR #436 (Hillside Drive), elevation 11,400'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>July 17–24</td>
<td>Big Buck Creek Divide RD, Ldr: Glenn Kepler (303-986-3707)</td>
<td><strong>Jeep-in:</strong> Construct 3/4 mile of trail to relocate CT off steep 4WD-jeep road with major erosion problems. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Camp near CT yurt 12 miles west of Spring Creek Pass, elevation 11,600'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>July 17–24</td>
<td>Miners Creek Dillon RD, Ldr: Stan Ward (303-770-4382)</td>
<td><strong>Jeep-in:</strong> Trail rehabilitation between Peaks Trail and top of Ten Mile Range between 10,000–11,500'. Replace small bridges and improve drainages. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Camp at end of Miners Creek Rd., elevation 10,550'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>July 24–31</td>
<td>Cascade Creek Columbine RD, Ldr: Ted La May (970-259-3308)</td>
<td><strong>Jeep-in:</strong> Trail rehabilitation along the Rico-Silverton portion of the CT. Work site 2 miles in either direction of camp. Camp at end of FR #579 (Cascade Divide Rd.), elevation 11,000'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>July 24–31</td>
<td>Jarosa Mesa Divide RD, Ldr: Jon Greeneisen (303-221-5620)</td>
<td><strong>Jeep-in:</strong> Place posts &amp; cairns along 3 miles of old La Garita Driveway to take trail off 4 1/2 miles of existing 4WD jeep road. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Camp 3 miles west of Spring Creek Pass, elevation 11,200'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>July 31–Aug. 7</td>
<td>Bear Lake Leadville RD, Ldr: Arthur Rankin (303-394-1669)</td>
<td><strong>Jeep-in:</strong> Continue work from Crew #9. Work 1–1 1/2 miles from Bear Lake campsite. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Camp at Bear Lake Trailhead (wilderness boundary), elevation 11,200'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11</td>
<td>Aug. 14–21</td>
<td>Guller Gulch Dillon RD, Ldr: Ernie Werren (970-262-2549)</td>
<td><strong>Backpack:</strong> Trail rehabilitation at 11,400–11,600 near Searle Pass above Copper Mountain. Improve drainage and build turnpike. Also part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Camp at 11,600' after 2 1/2 mile easy backpack over 12,000' Searle Pass. (Maximum crew size is 17 volunteers.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12</td>
<td>July 10–17</td>
<td>Mt. Princeton (Cottonwood Creek), Ldr: Gudy Gaskill (303-526-2721)</td>
<td><strong>SPECIAL Elderhostel Group</strong> Course #62001-071099. Volunteer crew recruited through Elderhostel. (Registration not available thru leader or The CTF.) Course costs $153. Contact Elderhostel at 877-426-8056 after Feb. 24th for telephone registration information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12</td>
<td>July 31–Aug. 7</td>
<td>Saguache RD, Ldr: Phil Smith (303-688-9638)</td>
<td><strong>SPECIAL High School Group.</strong> Volunteer crew recruited from student body of DC Oakes High School (crew full).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I met Merle on my second CT crew, in 1988. It was a crew at San Luis Peak, near Creede. Bob Boblette was the leader. I think this was Merle’s first year with The Colorado Trail Foundation. I have worked with Merle several times over the last 11 years. Merle is a very organized, disciplined, knowledgeable, and friendly person. I have really appreciated working with him. My hiking and crew partner Charlie Ament has also enjoyed working with Merle. This goes for my four sons, who have been on his crews. He has been a great asset to The Colorado Trail Foundation.

As one of the photos shows, Merle’s van was always loaded down, as it was when we met for a crew on Merle’s adopted section near Mt. Yale in 1993. We decided for our Sunday hike to climb Mt. Yale, leaving about 10:30 a.m. Well, as you might know, Merle was off and up on the peak long before most everyone else. In fact, he even took a few students and others who did not make it on Sunday back up on Wednesday.

On a crew at Keystone Gulch II in 1992, we took a hike with Merle. Merle said it would be only a short hike—ten or twelve miles! The GPS, hand held, was a new thing, so we were checking it out. So off we go, about 8 or 10 of us. Well, we hiked and hiked; we could not locate the trail in one area. Several people asked, “How much further, Merle?” “Only a few more miles,” was Merle’s reply. Well, after about 20+ miles, we arrived back at camp. By the way, we never did reach our destination. We were tired, but we had a good time. On the same crew, Ken Stagner’s brother was along. His name was Paige Stagner. Merle kept calling him “Ken’s Bob Paige”; everyone got a laugh out of that.

Merle was always very patient with many different personalities on the crews. He has had some to deal with too! I hope he comes back and leads a few more crews. I would like to bring all my sons out in 2000 to work on a crew. Maybe some of their wives too!
[Editor’s note: This is a shortened version of Richard’s proposal. The complete proposal can be seen on our website: www.coloradotrail.org]

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of The Colorado Trail, I would like to begin the process of creating a Geographic Information System for The Colorado Trail. This GIS would be a database of information about the trail itself that could be used in several ways.

One important application of the database would be to provide interactive maps of The Colorado Trail on our website. We are currently testing some very powerful freely available mapping software that can be run on our webserver. Unlike traditional paper maps, dynamically generated digital maps would not be limited to predetermined views. Profiles and three-dimensional perspectives could be created for each segment of the trail and formulas derived to compute the relative difficulty of ascent/descent for sections. Given enough data points and programming time, real-time queries for point-to-point statistics could be generated on the fly by the webserver. I would like to kick off an initiative to map The Colorado Trail and compile the data needed to build this database.

I would like to hear from anyone with experience with and/or access to GPS systems who would be willing to participate in our trail mapping project. We need to conduct a feasibility study this spring as early as possible to see if we can collect meaningful data with GPS receivers. If anyone has contacts in the mapping or GPS industry, or is willing to do some legwork investigating leads that we already have, I’d like to hear about them too.

If we can find a way to resolve the so-called Selective Availability factor (slightly decreased accuracy due to military security concerns) of the civilian grade signals, I would like to begin with the project to map the trail this summer. It will take time and effort to coordinate the work of any and all volunteers who have access to GPS equipment. If anyone knows of or works for a company, organization, or agency that uses, sells, rents, or loans GPS equipment that might be persuaded to assist us in this project, please contact me about that as well.

We will be developing procedures for recording the data, where to take readings, how to sign up for a section of the trail to map, etc., in the coming months. Your comments and suggestions on this project are needed now if we are to realize this goal.

This is a request for comment. Please let us hear from you even if your suggestions do not involve GPS in any way. Contact Richard at nolde@ctf.coloradotrail.org
This is a sample of the type of map that could be called up and printed on your home computer (in color) from the CTF web site when and if the GIS program is successful. It shows the re-routing of the CT just south of Mt. Princeton. The X X’s are the old trail and the Flags indicate the Raspberry Gulch re-route. (See CTF map # 14) The Notes beside the flags are the Latitude & Longitude of the flags.

Selective Availability (a 100 yard error) imposed on civilian users of GPS may limit the effectiveness of it as a mapping tool. SA should be eliminated within the next year or two.
The Colorado Trail Foundation website currently provides to our webvisitors contact information regarding The Colorado Trail Foundation office in Golden. It also includes descriptions, pictures, and an order form for the items available for purchase through The Colorado Trail Store. There are numerous webpages providing information about The Colorado Trail, The Colorado Trail Foundation, educational activities, and volunteer trail work crews. Visitors can now create and view comments and trail reports on-line! If you have access to the internet, point your browser to www.coloradotrail.org and check out our new look!

The website is hosted by Arrowhead Consulting Company in Englewood, Colorado, which makes it possible for our site to be connected to the internet, aka the World Wide Web. The people at Arrowhead Consulting Company provide this service to The Colorado Trail Foundation without charge. The website material was originally developed by Tom Vose, when he worked for Arrowhead, and installed on one of their computers that ran the OS/2 operating system.

Richard Nolde, the current webmaster, writes:

After Tom left Arrowhead, our website remained static for a while—that is, it grew a few cobwebs, in net parlance, since there was nobody to update articles or add new ones. I took over the task of maintaining The Colorado Trail Foundation’s material on the site in 1996.

Although I live in Connecticut, I had a fast connection to the internet through servers at Yale University, where I worked at the time, and I wanted to learn more about website development. I talked The Colorado Trail Foundation into letting me take over the development of new material for the website. Mark Mays of Arrowhead Consulting Company provided a way for me to send updates to the server and have them posted to the website.

I then discovered a new operating system called Linux, which was making a name for itself as a great platform for hosting websites, and was soon hooked. The teamwork and volunteer approach that is the hallmark of Linux development efforts seems to me to make Linux particularly appropriate for use on our webservers.

After talking with Mark Mays, I proposed an even more ambitious development plan for our website. In order to ease the administrative burden on Arrowhead Consulting personnel and give me more freedom to work on our website whenever I needed, I offered to build a computer for the website and install Linux and the Apache webservice software on it. Once again, The Colorado Trail Foundation took me up on my offer and within a few months I was putting the pieces together and setting up the new software.

In the fall of 1997, I flew out to Denver and was met by Chuck Lawson, who donated a used monitor to the project and put me up for a few days while I began to configure the system. Once the operating system was configured, I moved to Merle McDonald’s house for four days of nearly non-stop webpage creation. At the end of the week, we took the newly configured system up to the Arrowhead Consulting building and installed it on their local network. The total exhaustion resulting from a week of intense work gave way to elation as the new machine served up its first webpage in response to a query from one of the other computers in the Arrowhead Consulting machine room.

Once the system was installed, I was able to administer it remotely and update pages whenever I needed to. Since then, I have been developing my webmaster and webdeveloper skills and buying the assorted hardware and software needed to create new material for the site.

Since April of 1998, I have been a technical specialist in the Telecommunications Support Services branch of the Nasdaq Stock Market in Trumbull, Connecticut. I also do private computer support consulting to support my fondness for new computer hardware and software.

Perhaps the best thing to happen to me since I went to work for Nasdaq was my getting to know David Sears, a fellow programmer with a great deal of webservice administration and development experience. After seeing some of my photographs hanging in my office cubicle and reading the journal I wrote during an extended hike along The Colorado Trail, he offered to help me with the website. He has proved to be an invaluable resource to me and unceasing
inspiration for me to make the website shine. When I think of something I would like to implement but haven’t had the time to do myself, I send him a request for his ideas on the subject. Likely as not, his reply comes back “I’ve got a working version for you to take a look at. Let me know what you think of it and where we should go from here.” We both are interested in maps and mapping software and hope to develop a series of interactive maps for the site eventually that travelers may use to plan their treks.

I have enjoyed the outdoors and backpacking in particular since I was in college. I began the practice of taking extended solo hikes of 50 or more miles when I was in graduate school in Texas and have visited many parts of the country to backpack ever since then. The vast open spaces of the West have always held a special appeal to me, and I seem to go back every year for a dose of mountain medicine. I hope eventually to find a job out West that will bring me closer to the mountains and people that I come back to see each time.

My activities with The Colorado Trail Foundation and the website in particular are the result of a chance meeting with three seasoned backpackers while hiking the Wonderland Trail around Mount Rainer with my sister several years ago. After sharing two evenings of campsite conversation with Merle McDonald, Larry White, and Tom Bowser, I became interested in visiting Colorado and seeing this trail they spoke so glowingly about. The seed was planted in my brain that night, and during the next winter as I contemplated where to hike the next summer, I came across Merle’s Colorado Trail Foundation business card. As promised, I received a literature and trail crew registration packet in the mail in January and shortly after that I decided to combine a week of trail maintenance with a two-week-long solo hike on The Colorado Trail. Everything fell into place, and I even managed to bum a ride to the work crew site with Merle when I flew out to Colorado the next summer. The details of that crew and hike will soon be available on the website in the form of my journal from that period, but suffice it to say, I was hooked on The Colorado Trail and mightily impressed by the volunteers I met on the crew. Ever since then, I have felt that these friends and places, and the many other people that have given their time and effort to make The Colorado Trail what it is today, are special. Thanks to the technology of the internet, I can contribute to the effort all year long instead of just one or two weeks a year. A Friend of The Colorado Trail is truly a friend of mine.

David Sears writes:

I knew from childhood that I wanted to be an engineer, and my education followed that track. My background in computing goes back to 1964 with some of the first mechanical switching equipment, an accident of fate. I spent 15 years with RCA and Univac (remember them?) on large-scale national defense projects in cold places, and airline and banking projects in Europe, specializing in telecommunications. A six-year stint as a communications and transaction consultant followed on my return to the USA. Since 1984 I have been part of the Nasdaq back-office staff, again specializing in telecommunications and information dissemination in particular. Over the years, I have taught computer technology and programming techniques to various audiences, most challenging (because of the language) in Danish to Danes in Denmark. I also implemented several systems using object oriented programming techniques before there was a name for “OO.” In the interest of preserving the quality of information exchange, I am now engaged in activities concerning the future of the internet.

Today, there are inexpensive tools available that allow anyone with any motive to produce a web site that has a professional appearance and by association a “ring of authority.” My attraction to The Colorado Trail Foundation website is the opportunity it provides to give clear, honest and entertaining information content on behalf of an organization dedicated to preserving something of what’s most worthwhile in our society and country, and the hope that it won’t be just a history lesson to my three grandchildren and their children.

Although I have never set foot on The Colorado Trail, a recent trip through some of the fragile ecosystems of Costa Rica cemented my feelings that all of us need to proactively protect these resources for our heirs. This is my way.

[Editor’s note: For the full text of Richard’s and David’s article on their own backgrounds and the history of our website, be sure to check out the website at www.coloradotrail.org]
Known as “The Turnpike Crew,” “The Rock Brigade,” or the “Bridge Builders,” CT Crew #2 had a fun AND productive seven days helped out by Mother Nature—glorious weather! Our CT week began on Saturday with loading our personal gear, CT equipment, and supplies at the Dillon Forest Service station. We then caravanned to the Miners Creek jeep road, packed all the gear, and most of the crew into two Forest Service trucks and several other four-wheel-drive vehicles. For those of us new to CT trail crews, the many mysterious pieces of equipment and boxes of supplies seemed like a giant puzzle. Putting it all together Saturday afternoon at our campsite helped us get acquainted and settled in to our cozy camp. The mosquitoes settled in soon afterward. Shower and latrine locations were selected, and the structures raised. The only division of opinion came with the choice of individual campsites—we had the lowlanders (convenient but mosquitoey) and the highlanders (who insisted upon hauling their gear up a very steep ridge filled with fallen logs to camp up among the stars). They did not have any mosquitoes, but they did face that long steep hike every evening up to their “penthouses.”

After transporting our tools (including two wheelbarrows) across a stream (would that fallen log hold up all week??) and through the woods to our worksite, we gave our attention to crew leader, Arthur Rankin, while he gave us our lesson on CT crew safety and tool use. As our crew comprised a mix of experiences, Arthur’s instructions were thorough and much appreciated. We all listened earnestly as we received our assignment from Holly English, Forest Service Volunteer Coordinator. We were to reroute a section of the trail eroded due to heavy use during the wet season. This new section of trail would include a “turnpike”—this wasn’t New Jersey, so how did you build a turnpike at 10,000 feet in the Colorado Rockies?! We were soon to find out. We also were to build a bridge over Miners Creek for hikers and mountain bikes and a path through the creek for horses. With work assignments given, our camp set up, we were ready for a little fun Sunday afternoon. Many of the group hiked nearby sections of the CT and discovered wildflowers, spectacular views of the Ten Mile Range, as well as many large trees blown down across the trail—more work! The hike and one person getting “a little lost” helped to further solidify our group.

By Monday morning with Arthur’s help we divided our crew into task forces and started in on our assignments. The rock pickers collected rocks from an old mine; the rock haulers transported the rocks from the mine to the turnpike. The bridge builders constructed a beautiful bridge across Miners Creek, complete with planks across the top; other crew members cut and skinned logs for the turnpike and redirected the trail leading to and from the turnpike. We all were excited as we saw our wilderness turnpike take shape. As specified by Holly, we carefully (each rock individually hand selected) layered rock and dirt with a special fabric in-between to allow water to pass through and drain out the bottom drainage channels. The results by Tuesday afternoon made us all cheer—we were finished! And hey, it was only Tuesday—we got word to Holly that our awesome crew had finished her assignments.
and we were ready for more. But first—our day off! Two groups chose to hike—one up Quandary, the other over the pass to Copper Mountain. Both groups encountered snow on the trails, but the beautiful weather made for memorable hikes. Others of the crew relaxed in camp, explored the nearby towns, and did errands (Rick’s S&S service!). By Thursday morning we were ready to “dig into” the additional trail work Holly had planned for us. We learned the “Three D’s” of trail improvement—dips, de- berm, and delineate—and applied our new skills to a large section of trail above our turnpike. The Bridge Builders put their skills to use again on a new bridge across a small stream. On Friday we were pleased to welcome Gudy Gaskill to our worksite, along with a reporter and cameraman from Channel 4 News. Did anyone see us on TV??

Our last campfire Friday evening celebrated our accomplishments and crew spirit. Arthur handed out CT certificates with special remarks for each member. Holly English and Paul Semmer, Community Planner for the Dillon District Forest Service, treated us to the history of the trail we had spent our week improving. We truly felt part of a remarkable effort. The following talented, hardworking folks made up our crew: Lisa, Ramiro, and son Marco Chacon, from Chicago, hiked Quandary, their first 14er, on Wednesday—congratulations! Rick and Marilyn Eisele hailed from Lone Tree, Colorado. Rick volunteered to be our sanitation engineer (what a guy!), and Marilyn set a fast pace, whether hiking or trail building. Bryan Whitaker, from Denver, and Larry Ballantyne, from Littleton, teamed up to haul rocks AND bake camp stove biscotti—destined to be a CT menu favorite. Harry Hance, from New Jersey, was our camp storyteller and treated us to Robert Service poems around the campfire.

Holly English, Dillon District Ranger; giving “wheelbarrow-driving instructions”?!! (Arthur Rankin at left; Larry Ballantyne at rear)

Marilyn Eisele and Jill Ozaki “checking out” the turnpike!

Kerri Lubeski and Mark Santa-Maria, from Michigan, were great camp cooks, beverage providers, and horseshoe competitors. Chris Black and David Sheldon, community service students from Kent Denver, mastered the trail-building skills quickly. By Friday, David was giving Jill and Suzanne tutorials in trail dips. Bill Bloomquist, from Conifer, Colorado, our official crew photogra-
Another week down in the Saguache area, this time camping at Lujan Pass, which is a really great area! It’s right on the Continental Divide/Colorado Trail, so we get some hikers at our campsite. This time, we had two young fellows come through, stay for dinner and overnight; and later two young women hiking the entire trail who also stayed for dinner, overnight, and breakfast. They were so glad to get “real food” that one of the young women ate all the leftovers, including the ice cream!

This was the fourth year of having a crew of senior high schoolers from Daniel C. Oakes High School of Douglas County. There were 19 students plus three adult sponsors. This was the third year for two of the boys (Mark Arias and Erik Trickel), and the second for Ben Levin, and they really took “ownership” of the work.

Since they were experienced, I assigned them to head three teams of workers, and they did a great job of it! The roster included Mark Arias, Ryan Baldwin, Liz Beeman, Jeff Bettis, Matt Clark, Don Conry, Ben Daniels, Cassidy Garner, Brad Gassaway, Stephanie Geerdes, Dan Hardin, Lindsay Holland, Ben Levin, Robert MacCauley III, Jeff MacKinnon, Karyn-

Instead of presenting the certificates for having completed the “Hard Rock Course” on Friday night as we usually do, I had the privilege again this year of going to the Daniel C. Oakes High School and publicly presenting these certificates.

The following are short essays some of the students wrote about the impressions this week had on them:
Another trip has come and gone—my last trip as a D.C. Oakes student, as I’ll be graduating this year. And another record for D.C. Oakes!! We did 3,001 feet of trail this year! But next year, alumnus this time, I’m thinking even farther down the trail—4,500 feet!

But why do I keep coming back to this work crew? Is it for honor, habit, or something else? I don’t think it’s any of the first two, but of the latter—just like why people climb Mt. Everest. Because it’s there!

And I will continue to return until it is not there. So I guess it is a pride thing, as well, and a nature thing. Long may The Colorado Trail twist and turn—climb mountains and dive into villages.”

“Bright blue skies, fluffy gray and white clouds that you could almost reach up and touch. Summer showers, a hot blazing sun sweating up your skin. A sea of green trees going on forever into the orange and purple sunset. The cold mountain air beating down your spine as you look up at night’s black velvet cloak. Her secrets revealing as you witness shooting stars, satellites, planets, and a silver moon casting its light on the newly settled dew. If you’re lucky, and listen to earth as she speaks, you can hear the beautiful cries of coyotes as they head out for their nightly walk.

The truck horn at 6:45 every morning, and a good, hearty breakfast at 7:00. Walking up the trail to begin a new day of trail work. I can still hear the trail language ringing in my ears—‘McLeod’!, ‘BREAK!’ Mosquitoes biting and flies swarming, sweat dripping from every pore. Finding more and more rocks and roots and less and less self-doubt. Learning that I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Breaking old records, making new friends. Learning what respect means. Making changes, and even though they may be small, knowing every little bit counts. Mother Nature and a bunch of good friends are what gave me the chance to see reality from another perspective. The Colorado Trail is now a part of me. Hopefully, one day, if not already, it will be a part of you too.” Karyn-Ann Moore

“On this trip, I learned that working alone you get more work done. But also working together you get more work done, but I would rather work on my own because I can think better and work harder. I didn’t work as hard as I wanted to but I was also sick the entire week. Next time I go on the work trip I won’t be sick and I will get more work done. What I learned this week is that we all have to get along. So we get more work done. I’m planning to go again next year! I also learned a lot about how the trails have to be perfect!” Liz Beeman

“Being a new student at D.C. Oakes, I didn’t know half the people on this work trip. I had my two best friends and a few select acquaintances, but that was it. I went up under the impression that this trip was the hardest and least enjoyable trip that we students make during the year. The teachers accompanying us were, to me, very fun to be around. Every evening and every day on the crew was an experience that I’ll never forget. I got to know everyone better, and I may not have shown it at times, but every single one of those students has unique qualities that I really like. This trip taught me what D.C. Oakes is really about. It taught me respect for others. It also taught me that next time I should have a waterproof tent! I’m really proud of our accomplishment of beating the record with 3,001 feet of completed trail! We all worked really hard and, in my opinion, the trip was not as difficult as everyone had said it would be. Being in the mountains made me appreciate nature more than I did before. I didn’t want to leave—except that I did miss being dry and clean!” Lindsay

“I found our trip to be fun and entertaining. It was a lot of hard work and took a lot of coping with situations, but we made it! I consider myself a better person after the trip. Even though I got hurt and wasn’t
in the best mood most of the time, it helped me get my thoughts in order and figure out what to do about some things I’d been worrying about. Also, it helped me to get to know a lot of the people in our school. Messrs. Greg Simons and Steve Brockmeyer are two of the most caring, laid-back teachers! They give their all to help us succeed. They showed me that I’m not alone. I am proud to be a part of the D.C. Oakes High School family, and I hope to share my experience with my peers.” Ben Daniels

“The Colorado Trail work trip was a really great experience for me. I had a lot of fun, enjoyed the company and the food. I found new respect for the outdoors and admiration of the wildlife. Everyone told me this would be a lot of hard work—it was more fun than work. I think I learned about my peers, teachers, and myself in the course of this week. I learned a lot about teamwork. Overall, it was a fun and educational trip, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.” Dan Hardin

“My experience on The Colorado Trail was the best! It was long, hard work, but it was all worth it. It felt great being out in the wild. It was so quiet being up there without cars, factories, pollution. I was really content. Hiking up the mountain every day and back again was fun and beautiful. Working on the trail—making it wide enough, putting a slope to it, and making gutters for the water to run down—was difficult. When you think you’re done with your portion, you find a limb and you have to get rid of it. Come to find out, it’s a big rock or a 3-foot-long root! The trip overall was great! It’s great to help build the CT so others can see the beauty of Colorado. The food was also great.” Cassidy Garner

“I thought the trip was cool. It was hard work, but an important lesson of teamwork was learned. No one hesitated to help someone else. I liked the hike up the mountain every morning. We’d stop and look at the sunrise. I also liked making new friends and being able to bond with the rest of the students and teachers.” Ryan Baldwin

“I enjoyed the trip a lot. I learned good skills and a lot of respect for my elders and peers. Mae and Phil are cool people—cool because they donate their time for the kids. I want to go again next year because I had so much fun. I think it bonded us together. Overall, it was a hard trip, but I loved it!” Brad

“On this trip I had a chance to help improve The Colorado Trail for the enjoyment of others. I also got a chance to make new friends, the opportunity to spend a week with ‘nature,’ listen to the coyotes call in the early morning, to see the ground squirrels play, to listen to the trees rustle in the wind, and the clank of the tools on the trail. It was all worth it and if given the chance to do it again, I would jump at the opportunity.” Dan C

“I went on the trip with high hopes and expectations. Fortunately, I was not disappointed. The trip was everything I expected. I got a challenge—I found out what I was made of—we all did. I learned a lot about respect. I didn’t realize that respect was such a big deal, but now I understand that everything is based on respect. I loved how we would hike up that huge hill every morning and walk through the perfect trail we’d already done. I felt true pride . . . the feeling of accomplishment. I loved the way the light hit the tree-covered mountain. It was the most pure and beautiful thing I’ve ever seen. I will never forget the pride I felt when I found that we had broken the record. I will treasure that experience for the rest of my life. I think it was a valuable and meaningful experience.” Stephen Geerdes

“The work trip was very good. It had a high level of accomplishment. We worked very hard and got a lot done. The teamwork that was learned on this trip will stick with all of us for the rest of our lives. I
also enjoyed the bond that we got sitting around the campfire. The challenge that was placed on us pushed us to work harder than we had ever worked. We strived to complete as much as possible to beat the record. It felt good when we did break the record.” Jeff

“I had a lot of fun on the work trip. I feel that we got a lot accomplished, and it brought the group together. The trip also was very good for me. At the time, I wasn’t getting along with my parents and I was sick of my job. Getting away for a week was good for my soul, and it helped me improve my attitude. I also learned a lot about my physical limitations. Walking up the mountain, working all day, and then walking back down was really hard on me. But by the end of the week, I felt better about myself and I was proud of what we accomplished. I am glad I had the chance to go on this trip.” Jeff Bettis

“I learned a lot on The Colorado Trail work trip. Not only did I learn how to build good trail but I also learned teamwork. I believe that without teamwork, nothing in this world would be accomplished. With teamwork comes new friends. After the trip I had friends.

I learned a lot and grew even more. I feel great about myself because I have accomplished a difficult task. We built 3,001 feet of trail and, according to Phil, we beat all of the records of any of his trail crews! It was hard work, and I got upset sometimes, but as long as I would try to keep a positive mind on the work, it went by a lot faster. I was tired every day after coming off the mountain, and just the thought of Mae’s food being cooked was what got me down, and also the conversations around the campfire always brought both students and teachers closer together because we could ‘be ourselves.’ All together, any of the trips this school goes on helps us grow physically (because of the hard work), and mentally, and closer together.” Will Whetten
Fixing a Boggy Area: 
Trail Crew #11 Report

Cascade Creek
by Jon Greeneisen, Crew Leader

Lynn Mattingly reported that on her adopted section of The Colorado Trail, the stretch south of Cascade Creek Bridge was “a boggy area needing a lot of rock brought in or maybe geo-tech work.” The problem is caused by water from snow-melt coming down and crossing the trail over most of the two miles between the bridge and the FS 579 access spur. The task assigned to our mid-August crew was to fix it.

Thank goodness we had a crew of heavy-duty volunteers who were undaunted by hard work and mud because Lynn was right on. We had to find (meaning dig pits) and move a ton of rock via bucket brigades, employ yards and yards of geo-tech in building “dirt burritos,” reroute the trail in places, and haul in and install log water bars to control the flow. It’s not perfect yet, but it’s a darn sight better than before Crew 1198 came to the rescue.

With varied needs to remedy problems over such a long stretch of the trail, we broke into three work groups. Ted La May’s group fixed problems on both sides of the bridge. Merle McDonald’s group tackled problems on the south end by hauling in dirt, rerouting, and installing water bars. Our “B Team” constructed geo-tech tread, cut berm, and put in water bars.

Our camp was at the end of FS 579 (15 miles due west and up the mountain from Purgatory Ski Resort). This is a beautiful spot with a spectacular view of the Cascade Creek drainage and Engineer Mountain. We had great support and guidance from the Forest Service’s Gary Mason. Bob Hughart was our “camp engineer,” and Marylin

(Left to right) Bill Maltby, Bev Gherardini, and Rolly Rogers dig a pit to find dirt and gravel for building the trail.
Greeneisen managed the kitchen. The rest of us were out on the line: John Brookman, Dan Coulter, Bev Gherardini, Jill Gilpin, Geof Greeneisen, Richard Grevè, Kiah Harris, Larry Mack, Bill Maltby, Uta McDonald, Anne McDonald, Sue Palmer, Rolly Rogers, Ken Swierenga, Frank Szvetecz, Stan Ward, and Dale Zoetewey.

Our biggest adversary was the August rain, most of which came during the night with booming thunder. This provided morning fog and wet working conditions. The Thursday night rain that continued heavy into Friday forced us to fold our camp and head back down a day early. But we worked hard the days we could and accomplished a lot. In the summer of 1999, hikers should encounter fewer problems with “a boggy area” south of Cascade Creek bridge.

(Left to right:) Jon Greeneisen, Bill Maltby, and Rolly Rogers fold geotech material to make a “dirt burrito” in building the trail through a bog.

The following are actual comments left in 1997 on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

“A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call.”

“The places where trails do not exist are not well marked.”

“Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands.”

“Too many trees. Couldn’t see the scenery.”

“Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.”

[More to come in the next issue of Tread Lines.]
After four cancellations, and one no-show, our hearty last crew of the season consisted of Charles Banks, “Grey Owl” Barrett, Anne Biddle, Richard Grevè, Philip Jackson, Corinne Kock, Larry Mack, Laurie and Roy McCane, Richard Opsahl, Storme Rose, Jim Tate, and Bill Thompson; the following teens from the new Daniel C. Oakes High School of Douglas County at Parker: Charles Banks, Chris Bonifacic, Erin Jones, Chris Knapp, Jana Matlack, and Maark Tornabene, and their teacher/sponsor Dale McGraw; and Mae Smith (the cook), and me.

This is the first of such trips for the youth from the Parker school. They hope to have a full crew next year, just as the Castle Rock school has been having these past several years.

This was my first week-long crew working in the San Isabel Forest near Leadville, and the location was a portion of my adopted trail that needed some serious work done in boggy areas. The crew did a remarkable job in tearing out an old French-type drain and logs that held a built-up trail, and putting in two turnpikes* that are not only nice to look at but also very practical. One turnpike required two 20" upper side of the trail, a ditch was dug which was about 10" wide and 12" deep, to catch the seepage. The length of the ditch was about 50 yards, which reached from one stream to another. In digging the ditch, we found two places where water ran continually, which fed the bog. When that was completed, the team moved to another part of the trail to dig another ditch to help stop seepage from getting to the trail. They also built some water bars to drain the ditch across the trail.

There was about 150 to 200 yards of ditch to dig. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to finish the entire project.

A couple of nights by the campfire, Grey Owl entertained with his harmonica—He’s good!

* A turnpike is one or two culverts put into a stream. Rocks are placed around the culverts to anchor them and create a French drain. Logs are placed close to the edges of the
culverts and on top of them. Rocks are then placed between the logs, starting with grapefruit size, and finally plum to grape size. This is then all covered with about 6” of dirt that is crowned in the middle.
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We have some great stories already from Irene Cazer, like the one about her “sock-it-to-um” panit hose coffee!

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