President’s Corner
by Merle McDonald

So much has happened in the last few months that I don’t know where to start. So I’ll start with last summer’s trail crew schedule. It listed both the Camp Hale reroute and the South Platte reroute as tentative since we hadn’t received final approval from the Forest Service at the time the schedule went to press in January. But it seemed as if it were just a matter of some dotted i’s and crossed t’s. Then in late May the first bombshell hit: the lynx was declared an endangered species, and Camp Hale might be prime lynx habitat. This prevented any new work in the area until an environmental assessment (EA) could be completed. So what can we do with the three crews scheduled

Continued on page 2

Join the Festivities!
Pre-Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 9, 2–5 p.m.
Gaskill Home on Lookout Mountain
Holiday Fare

You are invited to meet the CTF Board of Directors and all of the hard-working volunteers, as well as Marian and Suzanne from the CTF office. Meet the faces behind the names! Enjoy a ride through the snow to the foothills. Review our new guidebook, and preview our slide show. Listen to a live presentation of our Colorado Trail Song. Above all, we would just enjoy visiting with YOU. Mark it on your calendar!

Directions to Gudy’s house:
548 Pine Song Trail,
(303) 526-2721

Take I-70 west to exit 425. Turn north and proceed under the Mount Vernon Country Club sign. Continue one block and take left gravel road (Centennial Trail) along the ridge line and U-turn to the bottom of the hill. Immediately left of the mailboxes is Pine Song Trail. Drive up the hill until it makes a left turn. STOP. You are there. (The guest house on the road has painted heart shutters.) Please carpool if possible.

Cedar Palmer, age 12 months — the youngest CT completer! — and Father
Continued from page 1

for Camp Hale? Fortunately, the planning for the Copper Mountain reroute was going smoothly, and it became obvious that we would need more than the previously scheduled two crews there, so two of the Camp Hale crews were moved to Copper. The remaining Camp Hale crew was assigned to work on a section of the CT just west of Camp Hale that had been flooded by an ambitious beaver. That solved one problem.

Next problem, what about the South Platte reroute? Earlier in the year it was determined our reroute would go through some prime habitat of the endangered Pawnee Montane Skipper Butterfly. So an EA was required to determine how much damage our reroute would do to the butterfly's habitat. With some judicious rerouting of our reroute, it was determined that it would destroy only 220 square feet of the butterfly's habitat. To compensate for the destroyed habitat it was determined that we should sow 44,000 square feet of new habitat material (grama grass) in adjacent areas. With a few phone calls, volunteers were lined up to make it happen. It was a busy spring. That completed, it seemed that the approval was assured. Finally the day before the first crew was to start work, a verbal approval was given. What a relief!

The next day the High Meadows forest fire started, and the crew was evacuated on an emergency basis. We were not allowed back to our campsites for six days, just in time for the next crew to start. Fortunately, the fire never got closer than 10 miles to the work area. In the true spirit of volunteers, some of the crew members of the first crew came back to work on the second crew, so that helped out quite a bit. Even so, we were a bit behind our planned work schedule. In order to make up for lost time, it was determined we would organize two weekend crews in the fall which would not disturb the endangered butterfly’s reproductive habits. Finally on the 7th of October, we completed the first phase of the South Platte reroute. Next spring we hope to complete the final 660 feet of bench tread with a couple more weekend crews and open the reroute before summer.

The Copper Mountain reroute went well with excellent...
support from Copper Mountain Resorts and the Dillon Ranger District, except in the middle of the summer, it was determined the reroute needed to be rerouted. Fortunately not the part that had already been built. But it did take a bit of a planning scramble to stay ahead of the work crews. Decisions are still pending on how to cross three or four short sections of wetlands, but they should be resolved by the time we are ready to work next summer. We are planning at this time to schedule five crews in Copper Mountain next summer, which should finish that reroute. The new CT will be up under the ski lifts instead of down Copper’s main street. It will have some nice views and more shade, and will shorten the CT by about a mile. I think it will be a nice improvement.

The story of Camp Hale is not over yet. In September I received a call from the Forest Service telling me that live ammunition had been found at Camp Hale and it was closed until further notice. They hope the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers will come in and clear the area. Until then Camp Hale is closed unless there is a foot or more of snow on the ground. We can’t make a trail around Camp Hale until the EA is completed. I can only hope the Engineers will clear the area early next spring, or CT hikers will have to follow the highway from Copper Mountain around to Tennessee Pass. What a bummer! Stay tuned for the next exciting issue.

Cedar Palmer, the 12-month-old son of Himay and Melanie Palmer, began his trek of the CT on June 23, 2000, in his father’s backpack. (See photo, page 1.) The whole family arrived in Durango some 60 days later, tired but happy! They did not use any pack animals either. Amazing!

For next summer, in addition to the crews already mentioned, we are planning for crews just south of the Lost Creek Wilderness, north of Turquoise Lake, south of Twin Lakes, near Coney Peak, in upper Elk Creek (across the divide from Beartown), and two near Hermosa Peak. None of these are final yet, but we should have the schedule in January.

A little closer is the Open House Gudy is having on December 9 for Friends of The Colorado Trail, with Adopters of maintenance sections of the CT receiving a special invitation. See page 1 for directions. Hope to see you there.

Speaking of parties, we had a very nice reunion picnic on September 16 (see photo, page 17) in the park across the street from the American Mountaineering Center. Approximately 75 people attended, including several through-hikers and Bill Lucas, who conceived the idea of The Colorado Trail in the early 70s. The weather was perfect, and we had a lot of fun with the program.

I would like to give special recognition to behind-the-scenes volunteers who work for The Colorado Trail year-round. Everyone knows about Gudy’s devotion to the CT, but there are quite a few others who are also unselfishly devoted to the CT. Charlotte Briber takes phone calls on (303) 526-0809 and answers questions about the CT year-round. Liz Truitt spends several hours every week doing the banking and the associated bookwork. Pat Rush spends several hours every week logging in the mail and directing it to the proper person for action. Stan Ward works many hours every week on various plans and programs. Without Stan’s drive and determination, it would have taken at least another year to get the South Platte bridge built. Ernie Werren has done most of the planning and coordination with Summit County and the Dillon Ranger district for the reroutes near Gold Hill, Copper Mountain, and Camp Hale. George Miller manages all of the trail and trek equipment, and plans and supervises the treks, while his wife Lila plans, purchases, and organizes all of the trek food. Pat Nagorka plans all of the crew meals, purchases all of the nonperishable food, and organizes the distribution of the crew food. Peggy Bracket ships all of the items sold from the CT Store. Glenn Kepler manages the Adopt-A-Trail maintenance program. Randy Jacobs writes and updates the Official Guidebook. Paul Newendorp makes all of the trail directional signs. Jon and Marylin Greeneisen handle all of the crew registrations. Paul Berteau manages the certificate and plaque program. Judy Mesdag is in charge of Trail events. Richard Nolde designed, built, and manages the web site and the server on which it runs. Susan Junkin does the layout for and edits Tread Lines. Tracy and Lois Cochran prepare Tread Lines for mailing. I am sure there are others who skip my mind at the moment. But all of these I have just mentioned I personally know are constant workers and have been doing these jobs for years. It is a true labor of love. It takes a lot of devoted people to create and maintain The Colorado Trail!
Join a Communications Team
And Tell the World about the Trail

by Tom Brooksher

Are you ever surprised that more people don’t know about The Colorado Trail? Or that more people who use it don’t get involved or contribute to its upkeep? Or maybe you’ve thought about getting involved yourself, but just haven’t found a place to “plug in.”

Here’s your chance to help answer all those questions and get involved at a level that suits your time and interests. The Foundation is building a grassroots communications program and needs volunteers just like you to make it happen. We need people who can only give a little bit of time now and then, and people who have more time to contribute. We need people with no experience in public relations, promotion, marketing, and media, and we need communications professionals.

The objective of the communications program is to use all available media to raise awareness for the Trail and Foundation in order to increase the number of trail crew volunteers, participants in trek and educational programs, increase the level of donations, and heighten the general awareness of the Trail as a state and national treasure.

We will accomplish this by assembling teams of volunteers in key communications areas, including

- The Web
- Media relations
- Promotional materials
- Publications
- Speakers
- Databases
- Events
- Partnerships
- Special communications

Teams may include people who have a great deal of experience and training in a given area, as well as people with little or no experience who either want to learn more through experience and exposure to the “pros,” or who just want to help out with organizational or administrative tasks. There’s a place for everybody, and a place for you!

Take a minute right now to send an E-mail to Tom Brooksher at Tbrooksher@aol.com, or call him at (303) 694-1676 (early evenings or weekends) to learn more about the effort and to discuss where you can contribute.

The Colorado Trail is a tremendous national resource that was created by the support and generosity of people like you. Let’s work together to get the word out about the Trail: how to properly use it; how to help maintain it; the tremendous programs the Foundation offers to help enjoy it; and how to ensure that this great resource can be a legacy to future residents for generations to come.

Other Help Wanted

- **Web Site Assistant** — Need individual to assist with updating Web site pages. This can be accomplished from home or the CT office. We will train you.
- **Grant Writing** — Join the development committee and help write applications for grants.
- **USFS Mailing in January** — Join the crew of lively volunteers to assemble our annual crew mailing.
- **Special Events** — Help Julie Mesdag in coordination of special events in 2001, including National Trails Day and Michael Martin Murphey’s West Fest and CT concerts.
- **Data Entry** — Help with data entry.
- **Organizing Manuals** — Help in the CTF office organizing trail crew leader manuals.
WANTED!
A CPA to Be CTF Treasurer

The Treasurer’s direct responsibilities include overseeing and submitting tax payments and routine reports to the State and Federal governments, the supervision of paycheck preparation, oversight of the correct entry of all data (through QuickBooks), and the preparation of financial reports and annual budgets. The Treasurer does not need to personally enter data or make routine payments. It is estimated that the responsibilities should involve fewer than 4 to 6 hours a month.

Please contact the office or any of the officers at the numbers shown on page 2.

Volunteers Needed at ORIC

Do you like to talk to people about hiking, biking, or camping in Colorado? Well volunteering at the Outdoor Recreation Information Center at the new REI Flagship store may be something you would enjoy while getting a discount at REI!

Volunteers at the Outdoor Recreation Center provide:

- Colorado outdoor-trip-planning assistance
- Visitor information regarding regional public lands
- Representation of state and federal land management agencies as well as outdoor recreation organizations
- Environmental education

Our hours are 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, Thursday, and Friday, and 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. When you complete 25 hours of volunteer work, you can get a 30% discount on REI merchandise.

If this sounds like a job you would be interested in volunteering for, please contact Wesley Massey or Carl Dickinson at (303) 433-0845, E-mail wmassey@fs.fed.us, or come into the REI Flagship store and talk to us.

History of The Colorado Trail

by Peggy Bond

The CTF has found a volunteer to compile a history of the Trail and the Foundation. David Bond, a History major at Colorado College, will undertake the project, which will serve as his senior History thesis.

His grandfather, Bill Lucas, played a decisive role in the Trail’s creation and organization, and certainly will be able to contact many of the other important people who helped create the Trail. David plans to interview the Trail’s creators, as well as many of the volunteers who actually built the Trail.

A major section will be devoted to the national volunteer legislation which grew out of this particular project. With the help of official documents and first-hand narrations, this will be a very detailed account of some very important oral history.

For the next three months, he will be working out of his parents’ home in Littleton, Colorado. For those who would like to contribute something, or would like to be interviewed, his phone number is (303) 948-3712, or you can E-mail him at bondma@cs.com. Thank you!

CT Wish List

- New or “newer” van for Trek Program
- New or “newer” 4WD pickup truck for Gudy’s Education Program and Trek Program
- Signs for each (55) CT Adopter Section (approximately $70 each)
- Good chain saw
- Rake to clean up pack rats’ mounds of debris
- Live animal trap for CT Education Center
Annual CTF Ski Tour
Dates: February 15–22 or 24

Two groups will be skiing in to the CTF Education Center and utilizing the Hinsdale Haute Route Yurt system above Lake City, Colorado. Both tours will spend 2 nights in The Colorado Trail Memorial Yurt. The 10-day group will spend an additional day at the cabin and a planned night at the Fern Lake Yurt. Cost will be somewhere around $150. For additional information, contact Gudy Gaskill at (303) 526-2721 or E-mail gudycf@aol.com.

A Hiking Trip in the Fjords of Norway
August 11–26, 2001

Gudy Gaskill and CT Friend Ann Stevens will be leading a hiking trip to Norway next summer. The trip is being offered through the Colorado Mountain Club, and you are invited to join the group. Limited to 20, the adventure has a few vacancies left. The estimated cost is $3,140, which includes all airfare, taxes, land and sea transportation, all meals except lunches, first-class hotels (dbl occ), and hiking leaders. Contact Gudy Gaskill (303) 526-2721 or E-mail gudycf@aol.com.

National Trails Day 2001, and Crew-Leader Training
See page 8.

MMM Events
See page 12.

Ski Free!

Earn a Copper Mountain lift ticket* with a $50.00 Colorado Trail Friends Membership*

*Tickets are good for next 2 ski seasons. New CTF memberships only.
A successful summer is behind us . . . a perfect-weather summer where we were warm enough but not in
the heat of the lowlands, where the flowers peaked out a couple of weeks ahead of schedule, where the
snow melted so rapidly that if you didn’t finish your painting in one day, the snow patch was gone the next
day. We had a wonderful new sun/rain canopy over the patio area at the CTF Education Center cabin.
However, it was cool enough that we often sought the sun to sit in and relax. There were wonderful conge-
nial participants, great instructors, good food, and great weather. It made the summer of 2000 a memorable
experience and great outing.

The dates are set for summer of 2001, so we’ll give you a preview of the upcoming workshops.

July 1–7  Rocky Mountain Sampler: a day each of instruction in art, wildflower
identification, and local history, as well as a peak-bagging day, and a day of
folksongs and story telling.
July 8–14  Folksongs, music, and story telling by internationally known Julie Davis
July 15–21  Rocky Mountain Watercolors by Margaret Barge (her 5th year with the
CTF)
July 22–28  Rocky Mountain Wildflowers workshop by Richard Moseley
July 29–Aug. 4  Rocky Mountain Wildflowers workshop by Richard Moseley

Next summer seems like a long way off, but the calendar gets filled up fast. Give yourself a treat and learn a
bit about the environment that you’re supporting and working with. It’s a learning vacation in a superb
setting.
Saturday, June 3, the CTF volunteers and supporters joined forces at Kenosha Pass, on Highway 285 between Bailey and Fairplay, where the trail crosses the highway. We had information, refreshments, store items, a llama, horses, a scavenger hunt for children, and a former through-hiker on hand to share about the trail. It was a beautiful morning, and we were ready for the masses, although we didn’t exactly get overwhelmed with visitors. We had support from Mountainsmith, Knotty Pine, and Glen-Isle on the Platte in terms of donations, and volunteer support from Mary Mauz, Clair Gamble, Liz Harris, George and Lila Miller, Lois and Tracy Cochran, Merle McDonald, Charlotte Briber, Bonnie Straight, Gudy Gaskill, Tom Brooksher, Julie Mesdag, and Michael Mesdag (apologies if anyone was not mentioned). The local paper stopped by, chatted with Gudy, and put a nice article in the Park County paper about her and the trail.

National Trails Day (NTD) is an annual celebration of trails across the country, held the first Saturday of June. The CTF has had activities the past 3 years on NTD. The first event was at the Waterton trailhead, last year at the South Platte for the bridge dedication, and this year at Kenosha.

The 2001 NTD event will be held Saturday, June 2, at the South Platte trailhead, in conjunction with our Leader Training and a weekend trail crew. Join us for this hands-on start to the summer. Call the office for details.

Two-legged users (Michael Mesdag and Ryan Tarpy) get to know four-legged supporters for NTD on Kenosha Pass

ICORE Conference
November 7–12

The Recreation Sports Center of Miami University has asked Gudy Gaskill to be a keynote speaker at their national conference. The International Conference on Outdoor Recreation and Education (ICORE) is to be held in Oxford, Ohio, and the conference motto is “What We Learn Along The Way.” Gudy will focus on the importance of environmental stewardship and caring for the facilities that we rely on for recreational and educational experiences. It is important for the field of Recreation to give back to the environment in many ways, including, but not limited to, education and volunteer projects. She will be part of a couple of panels as well as give a slide show on The Colorado Trail.
The 2000 season got off to a shaky start. The dry winter and lack of snows in the spring made the forests extremely dry. Several wild fires near Denver raged out of control and made the first trek problematic. Fortunately the wind shifted, and the firefighters’ hard work paid off. The fires were contained and then completely put out. Smoke from later fires, mainly Mesa Verde, was visible over a large area and for many days, but the fires were never close to the trail nor a threat to trekkers. With the okay from the Forest Service, the season got under way. The good weather continued all summer, with a minimum of showers to dampen spirits and sleeping bags.

The Section 1 group had the distinction of having both the oldest and the youngest trekkers of the year. This group worked and hiked together so well, they all want to come back next year and hike at least another section together.

Elke Abitbol, Ollie Hickel, Karen Kern, Terri Rowan, and Charles Yeomans finished the entire trail this summer. All took several summers to complete the trail. Congratulations to everyone!

Again the crews did a spectacular job. Some crew members were veterans, some were new. All worked hard to assure smooth moves, good, hot meals, and enjoyable company. There were a few blisters and a couple of repairs to vehicles, but no serious problems.

The schedule for Treks 2001 has not been finalized yet. Look for that schedule in the Winter issue of Tread Lines.

It has been a typical balmy fall day in the mountains. The air acrid with the fragrance of golden aspen leaves, shimmering in the sun and the leaves floating gently to the ground as a soft breeze ripped through its branches. It was now evening and I was walking quickly on the ridge, back to the trailhead, to reach my car before darkness engulfed me in the pine woods. A clearing opened up just as the sun slipped behind the distant mountain range and cast a golden spell upon the broken bank of clouds. I stopped momentarily to watch the deepening colors and then stood entranced while the sunset became a swirling mass of brilliant reds, golds, and lavenders. The western sky became ablaze with brilliant flecks of golden splinters radiating in pulsating waves. A powerful scene, before it settled into a quietus mood of soothing beauty. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a movement come into view into a meadow below me. It was a coyote, and he sat down on his haunches and looked at the sunset. Moments passed before he threw back his head and let out a wondrous, scintillating howl. He then got up, walked over to the edge of the clearing, gave one more look at the sunset and with a flick of his tail, he was gone. In those few moments, the clouds had turned to a deep payne’s gray with bits of rosy red catching the edges. My heart was filled and it was time for me to go. Shortly thereafter the full moon came up, in its harvest red size and splendor and lighted my way in dark shadows and illuminating lights.

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Elizabeth “Betts” Gamble, wife for over 50 years of Clair Gamble, Friend-Adopter-Volunteer of The Colorado Trail. For those of you who know Clair, you know what a tremendous amount of support Betts gave him in his work with The Colorado Trail — allowing him to leave for days on end in the back country packing tools and supplies on his horses for crews; supporting his role as companion to another woman (Gudy Gaskill) at events including WestFest with Michael Martin Murphey; stuffing the hundreds of envelopes he brought home for CTF mailings; and loving him. We will miss you, Betts.
Crew Leader Training on the South Platte
June 11, 2000
by Tom Brooksher

Crew leaders and volunteers got a lesson in trail building from the master, Ted La May, on Sunday, June 11, on a section of The Colorado Trail just above the South Platte River bridge.

The workshop started with a chalk talk in which Ted explained the finer parts of mapping out new trail as well as different construction techniques. The 20 leaders and crew workers then went up the trail to put the theory into practice. They literally “dug in” and began carving a full bench trail with switchbacks up the side of a steep incline to reroute a section of marginal trail that connected to the bridge.

In spite of the fire, the workshop was a great success, leaving leaders and workers prepared for the upcoming trail maintenance season.

Participants in the workshop included Bill Bloomquist, Lois and Tracy Cochran, Wes Ganter, Glenn Kepler, Merle and Uta McDonald, Julie Mesdag, George Miller, Diane Parker, Marian Phillips, Suzanne Reed, Rolly Rogers, Pat Rush, Wes Szvetecz, Don Thompson.

Anyone wanting more information on trail construction should contact the office and request a copy of the Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook produced by the USFS. Additionally, there are 4 videos available on a loan basis: Basic Trail Maintenance, Trails in Wet Areas, Surface Water Control Techniques for Trail Maintenance, and Constructing Trail Switchbacks.

Well Wishes to a Friend

David Nevin has undergone a triple bypass. He is feeling a bit low and shaky after the ordeal. We could all cheer him up with a note or letter. He volunteered on many trail crews and dearly loves The Colorado Trail and his association with the volunteers.

David’s address is 131 Brooklea Place, Syracuse, New York 13207.

CT Poem
by John Mayo

There’s a hunk of land
Out in the west
That’s put many a cowboy
to the test

It was used by pioneers
In search of gold
And the birth and death place
Of both young and old

It’s open to all
Who wish to see
The beautiful land
Built for you and me

This hunk of land
It ain’t for sale
This chunk of dirt
Called The Colorado Trail

Editor’s note: This poem was written by John Mayo (of John’s Unlimited Sani-let) at the time of the Mt. Princeton Michael Martin Murphey concert. See related story, page 12.

Angel on Trail!

A person has been nominated to receive the “Angel-Along-The-Trail Award” by Nancy Butler, who completed the Trail. She said that about a half-mile south of Highway 114 near North Pass, someone from Gunnison had placed a cooler filled with pops along the Trail. The person included a sign-up sheet and indicated when he (or she) would be back to fill the cooler, and pick up anyone needing a ride into Gunnison. Thank you for the special treat!
Having been a part of the Host program in 1996, and now being on the board, I decided to be out on the trail again for a week and get feedback from users. Ted La May set up a great “outpost” for us, complete with a CT banner, followed by a flagpole and U.S. flag, leading to the screen tent with chairs, snacks, and drinks in a cooler. This was an excellent spot to catch trail users, and the through-hikers, especially, couldn’t believe their eyes. They really appreciated a cold beverage and cookies, and were happy to complete the surveys for us.

I knew it was going to be an exciting week when I ran into longtime supporters of the CT, Jan and Bill Redwood of Mancos, Colorado. They helped get the trail built in southwest Colorado by using their llamas to get gear and supplies to crews. We had great conversation (CT Tales), reminisced about Gudy, and chatted with two through-hikers from Georgia, Dave and Steve. We finished the day talking with George Miller and some of his trek crew, as they had just finished a trek on Saturday morning.

Sunday the sound of sheep woke us to another crystal clear Colorado morning. Two sets of two through-hikers came through, and another evening of CT Tales ensued. It was so fun to listen to the hikers and their experiences along the trail. Charles Dona and Anna Mohamadi were from Virginia, and had very lightweight packs, finishing the trail in 4 weeks. Melanie Lamb and Kathleen Carter were my favorite through-hikers of the week. They were enjoying the experience at their own pace for all it was worth. I caught up with them in Durango the day after they finished also.

Monday morning I hiked up to the ridge with Charlie and Anna as the girls went into Silverton. Two more through-hikers in camp this evening with the girls, Joel and Heike Podgarski from Boulder — on their honeymoon! More CT Tales until 10 p.m.

Tuesday I walked up to the ridge again with Kermit and Tadpole (the girls), and promised to stay in touch; they were something else. We found wild strawberries and passed an Outward Bound group on the way up to the ridge. On my way down, I passed a lone cyclist, pulling a 1-wheeled BOB trailer, out for a few days. A friend from Durango joined me for the evening.

Wednesday we went into Silverton for breakfast, then I walked the trail from Molas Pass to the outpost. Quiet day, then in the early evening, a friend I hadn’t seen in three years, her husband and two young boys, all from Phoenix, pulled in and camped for the night. I haven’t spent a night without friends or through-hikers yet! We had a blast catching up on each others’ lives.

Thursday, I sent off my friend and her family, then talked to 3 through-hikers, Bob Cather, Jeff Bird, and Scott Richter. I actually ran into Bob at the CTF office the next week! Only night alone in camp.

Friday it tried to rain on and off for most of the day. I walked around the lake, and checked out the family of ducks who seemed to have the run of the place. I did notice some Forest Service personnel the last couple of days surveying the area, and found out later that the area would be a FS campground in approximately 2 years. (Currently it is primitive camping with no established sites.) Another friend came in from Durango and spent the night in camp.

Caught up with my replacements on Saturday and headed for Durango, but not before I picked up two through-hikers at Molas Pass and gave them a ride with me.

I had such a good time on the trail, it made me want to hike it again. I hiked the Trail-A-Bration with Gudy in 1988 to open the trail. So . . . tentatively I’m going to do it again in 2002, with llamas from Jan and Bill Redwood. Happy Trails!
As Michael Martin Murphey and Willard Forman, of Rocking 3M/Summit Trail Adventures, and their group of riders finished the third leg of their Colorado Trail ride, two additional events combined with it to make a full week of working together with Michael and Murphey Western Institute to benefit the trail. After the third day’s ride finished near Mt. Princeton Hot Springs, Michael and two of his band members gave an audience of nearly 700 on the lawn of the Hot Springs a wonderful evening of music and memories. With support from the Hot Springs staff, Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce, Heart of the Rockies Chamber (Salida), Murphey Western Institute, Summit Trail Adventures, Julie Mesdag, and the CTF office staff, the event was a success, and we thank Michael Martin Murphey for doing the concert to benefit the trail. He is very generous when it comes to supporting the trail, and doing this concert in the middle of a trail ride really proves that fact. Board members in attendance were Gudy Gaskill, Stan Ward, Susan Junkin, and Julie Mesdag. Susan Junkin and Suzanne Reed set up the Colorado Trail “store” and information area to educate people about the trail, and Marian Phillips, and Rolly and Carole Rogers worked the gate selling tickets. Everyone involved did a fantastic job, and the Buena Vista/Salida communities really showed how much they appreciate what the trail does for their areas.

The second event was the Premier 2000 Benefit Event in Vail on September 1. This was a fundraiser for The Colorado Trail, The Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center, and The Murphey Western Institute. It was a $250/plate dinner and concert, with a live auction to benefit the three nonprofit organizations. After the dinner sponsored by the Big Texan Steak Ranch, a live auction was followed by acoustic performances from Michael Martin Murphey and Judy Collins. The Colorado Trail had a corporate table, at which sat Ernie and Barbara Werren, Tom and Janie Brooksher, George and Lila Miller, and Phil and Julie Mesdag. Gudy and Clair Gamble sat at a front table as special guests. Michael and the Murphey Western Institute presented the CTF with $5,000 from last year’s West Fest, in addition to what we will receive from this year. A lot of work went into making this evening a success, from bulk mailing 1,800 invitations (thanks, Marian and volunteers), to helping put fabric on the walls and ceiling in the banquet room before the dinner (thanks, Phil and Julie). Susan Masri, Executive Director of the Murphey Western Institute, really hustled to get everything together to benefit the three organizations; thanks, Susan!

Finally, The Colorado Trail had a booth at West Fest in Vail, September 2–4. We got a lot of exposure for the trail, sold merchandise, and generally raised awareness, through all three events. Phil, Julie, and Michael Mesdag worked at the West Fest booth all weekend, while Gudy attended on Sunday, and got called up to the main stage by Michael Martin Murphey.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the Michael Martin Murphey events next year, please give the office, or Julie Mesdag a call, and we will put you down and give you a call. Happy Trails!
Rousing the troops with “Wahoo,” from “Riders in the Sky” (portable CD boom box), Trail Boss Frank Amthor started the day with a bang (boom?).

Our Colorado Trail segment runs 12 miles from Molas Pass toward Durango to Bolam Pass. The 20 volunteer horsemen were sent out to clean up 2-mile increments, while the Trails 2000 Mountain Bikers worked their way from Molas downhill.

With all these people, it went fast, and my crew was done when we ran into the next crew right at lunch. They were the Buck’s Livery Crew, outfitters, and 4CBCH members. As you’ll see, Nice people!

Buck’s had three pack mules. One mule, loaded with tools, was tied to a high line, while the others were unloaded about 50 feet below the trail . . . Out came a table, chairs, candle holders, champagne flutes, champagne, and a BIG pitcher of margaritas. Nice people! My crew had PB&J sandwiches and water. We set down about 15 feet above the trail in the dirt.

Each mountain biker that passed was hallooed with the question: “Have you any Grey Poupon?” by the Outfitters. Musta been about a dozen bikers went past, thanking us for our work. Nice people. And then came the man who ended lunch to a standing ovation.

His answer was: “Why yes, I use it for chain lube. You can scrape some off if you’d like.”

Another Great Day on the Trail!

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CTF Education Center Update

by Gudy Gaskill

It was a successful year for the CTF Education Center, its usage, and its improvements. A new skylight was put into the east-facing roof of the living area, and that resulted in a lot more light to read by and to prepare breakfasts early in the morning, since the Swiss chalet eaves are architecturally attractive but light blockers. A new solar panel (gift of Merle McDonald) and a solar light in the outhouse were installed by John Wilson. Later in the summer John installed new storage batteries and then flew back in early October to work with Gudy and Rusty Dowling (from Virginia) in putting in a new flooring, to eliminate trying to keep the cabin swept clean between the grooves. Gudy’s husband, Dave, put in a couple of days cleaning up some of the debris from remains of the avalanche that swept down a few years earlier. It keeps getting better! We are indebted to John, Rusty, and Dave for making the long trip and spending the time indoors in glorious fall weather to make it more comfortable for the rest of us.

The cabin was used a full month with the educational classes and then on many weekends by FRIENDS of the CT. We also want to thank Gene Rush’s adopter-of-the-CT group for all of the wood that they cut and for the super wood rack.

THANKS!

To McGuckin Hardware of Boulder for the gift certificate. We were able to purchase a dandy axe and some super mouse traps.
THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES
HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED FOOD
TO YOUR TRAIL CREW FOR 2000

It should be noted that these companies have supported The Colorado Trail crews for several years, getting more generous every year.

Alamos Distributors, Inc.-John Amerman
Tortilla Chips

Archway Cookies, Inc.-Ray Milner
Many varieties of cookies

H.J. Heinz Co.-Mikes Helgeson and Crouch
Spaghetti sauce, Relish, Mustard, Catsup

King Soopers-E. John Burgon, Pres.
2 Merchandise Certificates

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

Nestles Food Co.-Dave Greer
Hot Chocolate, Candy (lots), lots of Teas, Refried Beans,
Creamer, Instant Coffee

Peaberry Coffee Ltd.-Cathy Nario
Coffee

Rocky Mountain Foods-Dave Greenhouse
Trail Mix, Coffee, Hard Candy

Stokes Ellis Foods-Linda Mathews
Refried Beans, Peas, Corn, Green Beans

Please show your appreciation for these generous donations by supporting these companies, many of which have supported us for years. As always, it is a pleasure to work with these companies that support our trail crews. Please do your part and buy their products as much as possible.

THANK YOU ALL. Pat Nagorka, Food Committee Chair.
This was a great way to usher in the summer. We had a great crew from all over the USA — Gail Allen, Manitou Springs; Bob Ballou, Pueblo; Stan Barnes, Nathrop; Steve and Michael Espinoza, Colorado Springs; Ross Gamble, New Orleans; Brad Hayes, Kansas City, Missouri; Hollie Irvin, Frisco, Texas; Bruce Kruger, Denver; John Marksbury, Olathe, Kansas; Charlie Miller, Georgetown, Maine; my wife Mae; and me. Because I had had single cardiac bypass surgery just six weeks prior to this, my faithful crew kept me from picking up tools and using them. I learned more on how to be a supervisor and just sit and watch them work! What a bore!

The location of this crew was in the San Isabel National Forest, working out of Leadville. Our camping spot was a fairly good one, with adequate shade, and an overabundance of mosquitoes. We walked from camp to the worksite each day. The crew was a hard-working, energetic one, and so we got a lot done. Our primary thrust in this area (which runs between Half Moon Campground and Lakeview Campground near Twin Lakes) was to dig a ditch on the upper side of the trail in order to handle seepage and runoff. There were up to three old ditches or ruts on the upper side of the trail, but still the water was flowing down and across trail. The crew widened the trail to 3 feet and put in water bars. They dug one ditch 10 to 12 inches wide and 6+ inches deep to control the water. The tread of the trail went through a grassy area. The dirt from the ditch was used to fill the old ditches/ruts, and the crew decided to take the sod from the tread and cover the old ditches. They dug about 900 feet of ditch and completed about 900 feet of tread.

This crew was very compatible, and following our week together, several of them exchanged E-mail and E-mail addresses and pictures. This was the second year of working with 5 of the crew, which was a real plus!

My second crew this summer was small, but they were very willing workers! We had one cancellation and one person who had to leave after the first two days due to a back ailment. We worked in the Cochetopa Hills area of the Rio Grande/Gunnison National Forest, out of Saguache Ranger Station. Not that we don’t accomplish enough in that area, but I was just reminding that this is my 8th year of trail work in the Saguache area, so I just “aim” my vehicle and it seems to know where to go! Not only have we worked there 8 years, but most of those years involved two weeks of crew labor! Those involved in this crew were Bob Ballou, from Pueblo; David Lehr, from Aurora; Geoff Mcharg, from Palmer Lake; Bruce and Christa Taylor from Evergreen; my wife Mae; and me. The one member who had a back problem worked one day on trail, then rested for a day at camp and helped out there, then left in order to consult with a physician. This was my second week of trail work and 8 weeks from surgery. I was recovered enough to be able to do a minimum of manual labor but still had to “sit it out” part of the time. Each day we drove 3 miles, then walked a half-mile to the worksite. David, Geoff, and Bruce were real workers and good “naggers” when I picked up a tool to do a small amount of work.

The crew completed a new switchback and did some reinforcing work on the second one, and repaired one that was completed last year but damaged by motorized bikes. They dug rocks and roots and rocks and widened the tread to 3 feet and dug more rocks! They complete 663 feet of tread, and it looked great! Since there were only 6 on the crew, they decided to work Wednesday and break camp Friday morning. This worked out great because 2 crew members needed to leave Friday evening anyway.
Trail Crews 0600 and 0700 marked the beginning of a new program for the Colorado Trail Foundation wherein we are working with the Landmark Volunteers Organization of Sheffield, Massachusetts. Landmark sets up groups of high school students to participate in volunteer projects all across the nation. This year they asked us to provide an outdoor activity to challenge these students and accomplish a meaningful project. Our long-planned Cache Creek reroute to bypass Hope Pass was chosen for this two-week crew. The volunteers from all across the country arrived at Denver International Airport on Friday, June 30. They were met by CTF leader George Miller and also by their Landmark leader Erin Greenlee. This group of 13 highly motivated students were then driven to the campsite southwest of Leadville where they would live and work for the next two weeks. They were joined by several of our own faithful volunteers to set up camp and prepare for two weeks of hard work and meaningful recreation.

Joining the students for two weeks were Linda and Weldon Hyde from Kansas, and for the first week we filled out the crew with Bill Bloomquist, Larry Mack, and Suzanne Reed. Anne Craddock also joined us for two days at the beginning of the week. The second week brought Bruce Armstrong and Linda Foss to fill out the crew.

Our Landmark Volunteers were Erin Greenlee, Leader; Amanda Caplan, from Washington; Gabriela Popescu, from California; Elizabeth Thompson, from Indiana; Jessica Massa, Lauren Donley, and George Kareman, from New York; Shelby Foster, Peter Coe, and Taylor Jacobson, from Massachusetts; Ya’ir Aizenman, from New Jersey; Ian Crouch, from Maine; Mark Manko, from Maryland; and Lydia Perry, from Connecticut. This well-balanced group of six men and seven women plus their leader made a very strong crew when joined by our own experienced regulars and with the goal of opening the reroute by the end of the two-week project.

The Cache Creek reroute consists of a mix of old trail that has been mostly unused for many years, some old ranch roads, and utility easements. The old trail had to be cleaned, drained, and made walkable and the roads had to be marked so that hikers could navigate the maze. Also a small bridge was constructed to cross an irrigation ditch. By the end of two weeks, this amazing crew had completed the seven-mile
route and had welcomed our first hikers, who navigated the trail without many problems.

Mixed in with all the hard work, the students were able to enjoy their days off due to the many activities available to them in the area. They went rafting on the Arkansas River, climbed Mt. Elbert, swam in the Hot Springs, and watched the fireworks in Leadville on the 4th of July. Other downtime was used to go to the movies and have pizza in Leadville. I believe the students enjoyed their experience, and we hope to see them back in the years to come. I also think our regular volunteers who worked with them enjoyed the weeks and were able to have a different experience from the normal trail crew.

Our partnership with Landmark Volunteers has been an unqualified success, and we are in the process of working with Director Ann Barrett to develop another project for next summer.
Abundant ice water . . . separate men’s and ladies’, air-thrilling, odor-free toilets . . . Jacuzzi . . . Olympic pool access . . . hot and cold showers (with fresh clean towels furnished daily) . . . coffee mugs . . . water bottles (while available) . . . and ski lift tickets given out to participants at the end of the week. Sounds like Sydney, Australia, or too-good-to-be-true!!! Well it happened the week of July 8–15 to those “Lucky Eleven” volunteer crew members who worked so diligently up at Copper Mountain this summer.

We had a nice campsite in the trees with a large carport canopy joining our two wall tents. We were conveniently located between Ten Mile Creek to our east and Copper Mountain Golf Course and Ski Slopes to our west.

Work?! Have I mentioned work . . . work hard we did! Crew 0800 was the first of four crews scheduled this summer to reroute The Colorado Trail from asphalt Highway 91 and the paved streets of Copper Village to what is soon to be a much more enjoyable path through the woods and ski slopes west of the village with intermittent pristine views of the Summit Valley and its surrounding mountain ranges.

Who were these extremely hard-working volunteers who were fortunate enough to be able to take advantage of all these amenities along with, I might add, wonderful weather conditions? Five of the crew were already close friends and teammates at Kent Denver: Conner Adams, Eric Anderson, Keith Bell, Hunter Moore, and Peter Hale (now attending school in Connecticut). Erik and Amy Micka, brother and sister team, are both attending college, CU and Penn, respectively. Bob Seklemian, retired geologist and knife sharpener, worked so very hard all week and gratefully helped pack me up and out of camp after my back gave way the last day. Infamous Larry Mack, section adopter, stump-puller, and 3- to 5-week volunteer every summer, elected to prepare lots of hot coffee and scrumptious breakfasts for the crew each morning. Quick, organized, hardworking, and always pleasant Jill Osaki was irreplaceable again in maintaining a successful, positive outing where there were few experienced hands and so much to be done. Kudos also to her husband Dr. Joe, who joined us on Friday and was instrumental in our achieving our week’s goal. Thank you, thank you to Kim Hesh, U.S. Forest Service, and Chuck Tolton, Copper Mountain Resorts, for making it such a pleasant and successful experience. We had great daily support from these two (all those things mentioned in paragraph one and more they were responsible for). What nice people. Thanks from all of Crew 0800 and the entire Colorado Trail program.

Front Row: Conner Adams, Larry Mack, Erik Micka, Arthur Rankin, Jill Osaki
Back Row: Keith Bell, Bob Seklemian, Hunter Moore, Peter Hale, Amy Micka
Missing from Photo: Eric Anderson, Joe Osaki
Our was one of the crews originally scheduled to work near Camp Hale, but we were moved to the Copper Mountain reroute to allow the Forest Service to study whether the lynx would like to camp at Camp Hale. So we gathered on Saturday, July 15, in Copper Mountain’s east parking lot, drove a treacherous 100 yards into the wilds, and moved into a camp already set up for us by the previous week’s crew (thank you, Crew 0800).

But the Brits were missing! We had barely been in camp long enough to unroll our Therm-A-Rests when bad news spread like a boulder rolling down a steep slope: The Brits were missing! Alan and Cheryl Wicks of Evesham, England, best known as the parents of their son, trail crew strongman Paul Wicks, didn’t show at the rendezvous point. Crew Leader Stan Ward did his best to quell the panic. Some crewmembers were so upset they even pitched their tents. The remainder of the afternoon and evening was spent in quiet meditation as we attempted to stay dry and awaited word on the missing Brits.

Nevertheless we persevered. Crew 0900 was a relatively experienced, albeit eclectic crew. At the helm with Stan was Frank Szvetecz, who also co-led in 1999. Stan had again conned Frank into doing the heavy work! Also returning from the previous year’s storied crew was “Kitchen Manager,” Princess Sue Palmer, and crewmembers Bob Hunter, and Tom and Andy Brooksher (Colorado). Brothers-in-law Stan and Frank attempted to turn the crew into a family reunion, enlisting Frank’s big brothers Ernie Svetec (Pennsylvania) and Ed Szvetecz (North Carolina), along with Frank’s college roommates Bob Briggs (New Jersey) and Jay Cullen (Georgia). Bob’s wife Chris became an honorary crewmember when she took ill and was unable to join the crew. By Sunday evening Bob decided he’d better take Chris home. We were pleased to learn that she recovered and is thinking of trying again next year.

But sometimes other things take priority. With so many experienced trail builders at his disposal, Stan couldn’t wait until Monday to put them to work. So, after Sunday’s orientation and safety lesson, a group of volunteers headed out. However, always one to take the road less traveled, Princess Sue assembled her own “work” crew, including 14-trail-crew veteran Laura Farmer (Colorado) and newcomer Lee “Blue Toenails” Kulinna (Pennsylvania), and set out on an arduous trek (they drove in Sue’s car!) to the thrift shop in Breckenridge. Ever the conqueror, Princess Sue scored a “personal” port-a-potty, just large enough for her barn-sized tent. Laura obtained the final pieces to complete her trail wardrobe, and Lee brought back a Star Wars Pez dispenser, which he presented to the smallest member of the crew, Hope Klauber (Maryland), at the awards ceremony.

Then the hard work began. After a second rainy night on Sunday, the crew began its work in earnest Monday morning. The work involved completing some rough-cut trail begun by Crew 0800 and building new tread for over a half-mile across the Far East and to the Too Much ski trails on the “A” side of Copper Mountain. As is often the case with new construction, the work was very physical and demanding. In many instances we were on very, very steep grades with many large boulders and in-place rock conditions. In addition, we had to battle many trees. And we had to be sensitive to several wetland areas, because as everyone knows, wetlands get their feelings hurt easily.

And the rain and Wicks arrived! At noon on Monday just as the lunch sacks came out, the rain began again. And since July showers bring mad dogs and Englishmen, the Wicks also arrived, providing much relief to the worried crew. Alan and Cheryl were late getting to the gathering point on Saturday and not knowing the crew had already set up camp a whole 100 yards away, they headed back to the comfort of the Frisco bed and breakfast and waited for the Forest Service or Copper Mountain office to open Monday morning. Then with the aid of Chuck Tolton, our gra-

Continued on page 20
The crew was particularly excited to meet Alan and Cheryl because their son, Paul, had been on the crew with several of us the previous year and we all wondered, “What in the world do you suppose his parents are like?” The answer in a few poignant words picked to capture the essence of Alan and Cheryl Wicks: they are wonderful! Cheryl is bubbly and engaging. Before the first day was over, everyone on the crew felt like they’d made a special new friend. Alan has a beaming smile and a comfortable way about him that made him an easy addition to the crew. And both shared Paul’s propensity for hard work. The Wicks are already talking about a return engagement next year with Paul and his brother Neil. Now that we’ve heard stories about Neil from both his parents and brother, he must come next year if for no other reason than to defend himself!

But back to work.
After another wet night Monday, the rest of the week remained dry, and the trail-building work proceeded smoothly. Bob Hunter, aided by Hope, Laura, Alan, and Cheryl, among other things, built the greatest switchback in the history of the Western world. Not to be outdone, Rosemary Brody, Jerry Anderson, Ernie, and Andy built a long turnpike over an extremely soft area on a very steep hillside, which rivaled the switchback in sheer beauty. Because of her nurturing, it was promptly christened “Rosemary’s Baby.” Ernie and Tom built a magnificent 15-foot bridge over a wetlands area. A crew led by Frank accomplished a series of Hall-of-Fame-quality projects, including a stream diversion, a culvert, a turnpike, and a burrito. Working with taskmaster Frank were Jay, long-time trail builder and sometime lawyer, Stan, the ultimate taskmaster, veteran Bill Hickey, and “Blue Toenails” Lee. All also worked hard at winning the battle with the hillside to prepare a full-width tread.

We submit that the switchback, Rosemary’s Baby, the burrito, the culvert, the turnpike, and the 15-foot bridge, not to mention the 3,000 feet of brand new tread, qualify for the highest honors bestowed by the Ted La May “Excellence in Trail Building and Sometimes Following The Book Award.”

It’s not all work, folks! A birthday party?
As is the case with most crews, evenings were a delightful mixture of visiting (including sharing our evening meal on two of the nights with CT through-hikers who happened upon our camp), campfires (once the rain stopped), music and singing—sort of—with guitar accompaniment provided by Sam, Andy, and Tom, ice cream (Oreo-flavored twice!), a surprise 32nd birthday party for the Princess complete with a cake, candles, and presents, and Stan’s unique end-of-the-week awards ritual.

Friday’s awards ceremony was, well, just that, unique. Apparently the Board decided to relax its “no lawyers on the trail” policy this year, so we were blessed with the wit and wisdom of Randy. Usually a leader with impeccable judgment, in a moment of insanity Stan allowed Randy to present the first award. In a performance, which should be labeled “Don’t Try This At Home,” Randy performed what can only be described as a cross between a closing argument in a felony trial and a Robin Williams monologue. Circling the campfire, jumping up and down, exhorting, shouting, and bringing the group to the verge of hysterical tears, Randy presented Sam with the wooden wheelbarrow award. Some of the other awards included the following:
Lee—the Roto-Root Award for his prowess in pulling stumps;
Sue—the Toy Hard Hat Award and a trainer seat for her new port-a-potty;
Randy—a crystal goblet and tie for wine and cheese night;
Andy—the Ice Cream Maker And Greatest Kid Award;
Ed—the Commanding Officer of The Colorado Trail Award;
Rosemary—the Best Coffee on the Trail Award;
Stan—a proclamation from Bruce Babbitt making him Emperor of The Trail;
Alan and Cheryl—a certificate for one free therapy session with Dr. Frank for signing up for back-to-back crews and detailed directions to the Athletic Club so they wouldn’t get lost again;
Laura—the Special Person Award for her charm, wit, and likability;
Bob—the Silver Rock Award for uncovering more than anyone else;
Ernie—the Bent Nail Award for his sometimes-straight hammering work on the bridge.

The ceremony was capped off by Sue presenting Stan and Frank with her handmade stained-glass mementos depicting The Colorado Trail.

But it had to end.

It’s all about great people, isn’t it?

Back Row: Jerry, Jay, Ernie, Frank, Bob, Randy, Tom, Andy, Sam
Front Row: Hope, Cheryl, Laura, Rosemary, Sue, Alan, Stan
Missing from Photo: Lee, Ed, and Jim

All had a good time. But perhaps the fact that we enjoyed the unusual luxuries of the Copper Mountain Athletic Club made it even more enjoyable. Thanks to the generosity of Chuck Tolton, after each hot, dirty day we were welcomed to use the Club’s showers, pool, and hot tubs. Oh, how we missed those sun showers!

All in all, the week was a rousing success measured by the trail work completed, by the friendships made and renewed, and by the fun times we had with each other every day!
One of our Kansas crewmembers described what we all would consider the ideal trail crew experience: “Hard work, beautiful scenery, and interesting people.” Add to that sunny days, cool nights, and a young buck for a camp mascot, and you have the Celebration Lake Crew 1200.

Our work consisted of trail maintenance on a two-mile stretch of trail south of Celebration Lake toward Hermosa Peak. Under the tutelage of Gary Mason from the Columbine District of the USFS, we perfected our water bar techniques. Ken S., Dick, and Charlie were standouts and gave the rest of us on-the-job demonstrations. We constructed two causeways using geotech fabric (and lots of rocks and dirt!) to help hikers cross through the boggy areas. Dana F. and Jane trimmed away branches and reluctantly cut down young trees that encroached on the trail.

An interesting sidelight occurred during our work when Lee uncovered an archeological artifact in a streambed. Experts in Durango are examining what appears to be a Stone Age object, and Bob, our geologist, is providing them with careful notes on its exact location.

In addition to our strenuous trail labor, we also served as trail hosts for hikers who passed by our campsite. This was a nice break from the usual Pulaski-swinging, and we met some interesting and inspiring through-hikers. Two members of our group actually became hikers themselves after our workweek. Bob and Dana F. donned backpacks and hiked through to Durango — we hope!

The setting for our campsite and our work was stunning. Wildflowers were abundant despite the dry season. Two young deer meandered in and out of the camp throughout the week to pose for pictures. Camp amenities were also top-notch. Adopter LaVerne Nelson even came up on Monday morning to deliver a second shower tent and extra water for our comfort. Thanks, LaVerne! On Wednesday, John W., Rusty, Marilyn, Roy, Dick Charlie, and Lee managed to reach the summit of Hermosa Peak, where the 360-degree views included Lizard Head, the La Plata mountains, Wilson Peak, El Diente, Mt. Wilson, and the Needles of Chicago Basin.

By the end of the week, there were comments about the amount of camaraderie that had developed among us. Surely that was helped along by the evening sing-alongs led by Kim and Harvard playing guitars. Each of them also composed some original music — a birthday tune for John W.’s 78th birthday, and a camp song for our end-of-the-week celebration (see words on page 23). While some crews might have been content to sit back and listen, that was not the case for us! “Goodnight Irene,” “Puff the Magic Dragon,” and “My Darling, Clementine” have never been sung with more gusto than by our crew. Even the lack of campfire didn’t extinguish our enthusiasm — Ken M. actually created the next best thing using red cellophane and twigs to create a fiery illusion!

We had other forms of entertainment as well. Dancing in the cook tent was led by Sandy, a.k.a. Julia Childs. Joining her were John R., Ken S., and Kim, along with the line dancing by those waiting for Mexican fare. A real one-man show, Ken S. delighted us throughout the week with his unique performances of poetry and his acappella singing. Dana T. amazed everyone (except her son, Daniel, and husband Harvard) when she swam the entire length of Celebration Lake not once, but four times! Daniel’s only concern when he saw his mother dive into the frigid lake was that she would scare away the one trout he had been trying all week to catch. Adding to our camp lore were several cook-tent mishaps, including a dropped brisket and coffee accidentally made from a pitcher of leftover margaritas!

Our last evening was a celebration of the week. Ken handed out certificates, and Dick and Charlie awarded our leader with a much-awaited rock sculpture of a “Trail Cruiser.” The women on the crew also received “pet rocks.” Some comments from the crew serve as a fitting summary of our week: “It’s too hard!” “It’s great!” “There are too many men!” “There are not enough men!” “It exceeded my expectations!” “It was just what I expected!” “Just the right amount of work!” “Above average — 8.5 on a 10-point scale!” Well, that gives us all something to work toward next year . . .
“Oh, My Trail Crew”
(to the tune of “My Darling, Clementine”)
Words by Kim Stevens

By a lake up on a mountain
Where the tents and hard hats are
Works a trail crew that won’t fail you
If you need a water bar.

With Margaritas they did treat us
But the coffee the next day
Alcoholic I would call it
But we drank it anyway.

CHORUS:
Oh, my trail crew, oh my trail crew,
Up at Celebration Lake
If you risk it, eat some brisket,
And forget that small mistake!

Oh Monday was a fun day
We built water bars galore
But when Gary saw them there he
Said I’m sorry, those are poor!

His pants Bob tugged he was bugged because
They felt so very tight
Then the thought hit why they don’t fit
They belong to his wife!

Oh then Tuesday was good-news day
When we found we had three stars
There were three who actually knew
How to build those water bars.

Now and then our poet Ken
If his memory was true
Would recite some poem of fright
To tell of boils and oysters, too.

Oh then Tuesday was good-news day
When we found we had three stars
There were three who actually knew
How to build those water bars.

His desire went toward retirement
Said our fearless leader, Ken
But alas, he loves Pulaskis
So I’m sure he’ll lead again!

Well the next day was a rest day
Which we really did deserve.
So we all just had a ball and
Fresh-caught fish for our hors d’oeuvre.

Oh tomorrow will bring sorrow
As we leave our trusted crew.
But tonight let’s do it right
As we enjoy a beer or two!

Front Row: Lee Paternoster, Ken Stagner, Sandy Shalley, Marilyn Fellows, Roy Leonard, Kim Stevens, Harvard Townsend
Second Row: Charlie Ament, John Ross, Dick Hackman, Bob Willhour, Jane Willhour, Rusty Dowling, John Wilson, Dana Townsend, Daniel Townsend, Bob Fetterman, Dana Fetterman
Last Row: Ken Marshall, Leader
Once again we were privileged to have a group of young people from the Douglas County Daniel C. Oakes High School as my third crew of the season. There were 21 of us, which rather made up for the other two crews I led this summer. This was 11 weeks from my surgery, and I got to do some serious trail work.

Once again we worked in the Cochetopa Hills area, out of the Saguache Ranger District. This was the sixth year that this group has participated in trail building. They have had a specific portion of the trail “to call their own,” starting each year where they left off the year before. This has created real ownership for the teens, especially since a few of them have come for 3 years!

Not only does The Colorado Trail benefit from the labor of these kids and their sponsors, but it helps the students as well. Some develop a better self-image, an experience of working as a team, and physical exercise to boot!

The first day, the teens were split into 2 groups. One group went up over the top of the hill to start building tread where they left off last year. The other group began at the switchback that Crew 0500 had reinforced. They removed a ton of dirt, one bucket at a time, as they finished this switchback.

The next day the crew was back together. The tread they worked on was steep. They built 3 feet of tread with a slant, and some water drains. They were able to complete 1,704 feet of tread and 1 switchback.

On Thursday evening, we had a good rain. Before we started work on Friday, we went to check to see how the trail had drained. They had to fix only 5 small areas. What a great job!

The first Saturday in camp, the kids built a nice campfire pit at the base of an uprooted tree. They put logs around for sitting. But they never used the fire pit, much to the dismay of Storme Rose, one of our kitchen helpers. Evenings were occupied by sitting around and talking, some went fishing, and some played hackey-sack.

Trail Crew 1400 Report
Copper Mountain 1, July 29, 2000 – August 5, 2000
by Paul Berteau, Crew Member

The members of our crew and their nicknames read like a regulars’ list from an Old West saloon: Frank “Fausa” Armstrong, Englewood, Ohio; Jim “Draggin’ the Line” and Jay “Silver Slipper” Ballantyne, Littleton, Colorado; Larry “Fire and Water” Ballantyne, Littleton, Colorado; Kelly “I Don’t Care” and Jeff “Am I Late for Breakfast?” Ballantyne, Pine, Colorado; Paul “Songman” Berteau, Denver, Colorado; David “Bowler” Hobday, Lancashire, England; Cathy “Shovel Shoe” Hoch, Durango, Colorado; Kathleen “Do I Smell Coffee?” Jones, Durango, Colorado; Glenn “Fearless Leader” Kepler, Lakewood, Colorado; Nate “Long Story” Lockwood, Clinton TWP, Michigan; Kerri “Moleskin” Lubeski, Sterling Heights, Michigan; Larry “Moosemeat” Mack, Colorado Springs, Colorado; John and Rockett “Maineiacs” Morgan, Hollis, Maine; Mark “The Train” Santa-Maria, Coloma, Michigan; and Amy “Me and My Dog” Young, Lakewood, Colorado. We even had a nickname for the crew — “The Dust Bowl Crew”! Oh, yeah, I almost forgot our mascot — “Lena”! As you can well imagine, there’s a story behind each nickname — space prohibits me from sharing them all. Call me, I’ll be glad to share ’em!

We had excellent support and guidance from Angela Glenn and the rest of the staff of the Dillon District of the White River National Forest. A significant enhancement was the special amenities provided by Copper Mountain Resort — they were marvelous!
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Our crew was responsible for all facets of trail building as part of the Copper Mountain reroute. We set up our own little “Squatters’ Village” camp within yards of the main highway, directly across from the Copper golf course. Each morning, we would hike up to the beautiful view from our “office window.” Before the sound of Pulaskis, saws, McLeods, shovels, and an occasional curse word could begin, we would warm up to our theme song “Building a Trail” (“sung” to the tune of “Stayin’ Alive”). We built tread, built switchbacks, dug water bars, removed trees, stumps, and branches, and hauled 8-inch pipe up and used it for a rock bridge, completing an area of over one-third mile of new trail in our week of work. The weather was hot, dry, and beautiful; we never quit early due to the customary rain showers — maybe a CT crew first!

At night we gathered around the fire, which the Forest Service granted us special permission to build, telling stories and laughing so much that our jaws ached, and renewed and built fast and long-lasting friendships. We were lulled to sleep by a combination of long-winded stories, the nearby highway sounds (actually that was an “anti-lull!”), and Ten Mile Creek on the east side of the camp. We even had access to a “real” bathroom!

On our day off, after all of our hiking to get to and from the worksite, you’d think we’d rest and relax. No! Most of us hiked, some gaining another section of The Colorado Trail, some hiking up to Searle Pass, and Glenn and Frank climbing separate fourteeners. (Frank climbed Mt. Elbert and has now summited 29 of the 50 states’ high points. Glenn’s summit was his 27th of the 54 fourteeners.)

Friday night’s “Awards Banquet” brought a sad end to a fantastic week, filled with memories of hard work, special amenities, superb companionship, fun and laughter, and a JOB WELL DONE! Thanks to all (including Lena), and a special thanks to Glenn Kepler, our “fearless leader”! See you next year!

Front: Paul Berteau
First Row: Jeff Ballantyne, Glenn Kepler, Larry Mack, Larry Ballantyne, Jay Ballantyne, Frank Armstrong, Kelly Ballantyne
Second Row: Jim Ballantyne, Mark Santa-Maria, Kerri Lubeski, Rockett Morgan, Nate Lockwood, Cathy Hoch, Amy Young
Standing: David Hobday, Kathy Jones, John Morgan
Good weather, great vistas, a nice camp at 9,800 feet, a good cook, daily hot showers, and new trail to build — we had it all! What more could you want?

This crew consisted of 19 members who ranged in age from 17 to 82. Twelve were over 60, and five were under 30. Five were from out-of-state: David Hobday came all the way from Lancashire, England; Laquita Cannon and Sally Stone came from Fayetteville, Arkansas; Kerry Lubeski, from Sterling Heights, Michigan; and Joe Watercott, from Isanti, Minnesota. The remainder were all from Colorado: Laura Farmer, from Palisade; Bruce and June Espy and John Watt, from Fruita; John O’Shaughnessey and Chuck Shea, from Englewood; Ray Bezanson, Jen and Frank Schrage, John Taylor, Barbara and Ernie Werren, and Cody and Nedra Miller, from Summit County (the Millers live part-time in Ohio).

Our work consisted of building new trail through the forest and across ski runs above the golf course at Copper Mountain Resort.

This entailed removing large boulders (being careful not to roll them 500 feet down the mountain onto the golf course!), cutting and grubbing-out trees, and building two bridges. We successfully completed approximately one-quarter mile of new trail.

On Thursday night, we celebrated Bruce Espy’s 82nd birthday with cake and champagne! At 82 years young, Bruce set a work pace example that spurred the rest of the crew to greater efforts. What a role model for all of us!

Chuck Shea and John O’Shaughnessey got in condition for the fall high school field hockey and football seasons by cutting and grubbing innumerable trees and stumps under the able tutelage of Ray Bezanson. Joe, Frank, and David were the backbone of the bridge crew and were ably assisted by the other crew members.

Our chief cook for the second year in a row, Nedra, ran the kitchen with great expertise and, with the help of crew members, kept us well fed.

We had excellent support from the Dillon Ranger District personnel who cut the larger trees and supplied the bridge planks. Kim Hesh kept our camp supplied with fresh water and hauled off all of our garbage daily.

The Copper Mountain Resort provided us with a Port-a-let toilet and a fantastic perk — we had the use of the Athletic Club facilities where we had hot showers, Jacuzzis, saunas, and use of the swimming pool — this was camping??? Thanks to Chuck Tolton and Diane Colman for providing these luxuries!

This was a hard-working crew, and the leader really appreciates their efforts and accomplishments.
To do maintenance work from west of Camp Hale to Tennessee Pass was a last-minute switch due to the importation of and releasing of lynx in the area. The Department of Wildlife requested that human intrusion remain at a minimum, so the new Kokomo Pass reroute was canceled for this past summer. We met on top of Tennessee Pass, and after visiting with a few through-hikers on the CT, we headed for camp in the meadow behind the Group Campground. Glenn Kepler arrived with the camp trailer, and we quickly set to work putting up camp. The new awning was an impossible dream! After three hours of standing on a hood of a truck and creating great discussions, we finally got the canopy erected! We had beautiful weather all week except for a windstorm. Jo Ann, Bill, and Jim were able to save the awning from blowing across the meadow. Our crew was a small crew, but big on accomplishments! We missed Joe Slack due to his triple bypass and wished him speedy recovery. Bill Caslin came out for his third summer from Alexis, Illinois, and was the handyman about camp. Jim Howlin, from Evergreen, Colorado, had a great sense of humor and great advice. Bob McKinney, from Plantation, Florida, came out for his third season of hard work and rib-tickling stories. Julie Mesdag, BOD member, put in training as a coleader and hard-working trimmer of trees. Jane Miller, an Elderhosteler from Sante Fe, became a whiz at repairing troughed-out trail, and her sidekick, Dorothy Boynton, was a REAL Elderhosteler at 89. Jo Ann Moon, from Palisade, kept us on our toes on environmental issues, plus put in long days of work. Dick Maurer, our airline pilot from Aurora, couldn’t have been a better crew member, with his endless stories to tell and helpful hand. On 4th of July, we all headed for Leadville and tailgated at the football field. A really spectacular display from such a small neat town. On Wednesday, our day off, the majority of us climbed Mt. Arkansas, which is close to the Climax mine. Great views and wonderful flowers. Two or three others either went sightseeing or fishing. No fish were caught, but it was a good day out.

We did accomplish putting in a new boardwalk bridge across the beaver dam, filled in a number of muddy holes, and debermed a long length of rutted trail. The whole last day was spent rocking in the washout at the Tennessee Pass trailhead and then filling it with gravel from the parking area. The very last item that the group accomplished was to clean up the highway of spilled trash (perhaps from a truck or dumpster) on the way home. This included many bricks, cinder blocks, and personal trash. Cars had been maneuvering around the debris all day, and no one had stopped to remove the obstacles. A local lady stopped and thanked us. It was a satisfying way to end a working week. We visited with a great many hikers on the trail and hope that they all made it to their destinations.
We were three women with a common passion for the Colorado Trail, attempting to hike the entire trail in one summer. We had different motivations: Linda was celebrating her 50th birthday this summer and wanted to set herself a physically challenging goal. Bonnie, 51, was recovering from a bout of depression and sensed that a summer of strenuous hiking would work wonders for her psyche. I am 65 years old and had already hiked the trail once with my husband Bud over four summers. I had wanted to write a book about that experience but my resolve had languished, so I hoped that hiking the trail again would inspire me to complete the project. Bud has a back problem which prevented his hiking this year, but he was enthusiastic about providing us drop-off and pickup support. For a little added fun, we purchased two commercial radios for communicating with each other as we approached each day’s pickup site.

We decided to start with one-day hikes and gradually work up to 3 to 5 days of backpacking in the San Juans. We also agreed that we would arrange our hiking schedule around our various commitments at home, using this rough timetable: to Copper Mountain by the end of June, to Highway 114 by August 3, to Highway 149 by August 14, and to Durango by August 31.

We started on May 15 and made four more 1-day hikes in May, reaching Kenosha Pass on May 28. Our major problems this month were blisters and other foot problems, and the unseasonably hot weather. Major delights were the aspen barely breaking into bright green leaf, and the grandeur of our first glimpse of the Continental Divide in the dazzling sun.

We hiked to Georgia Pass in mid-June and a few days later headed for the Gold Hill Trailhead north of Breckenridge. The trail had been rerouted since I had first hiked it in 1995, and I overlooked the increased distance, which by the topo map clearly added up to 20.5 miles. When we reached Horseshoe Gulch (17 miles), we were all weary and ready to stop. Consulting maps and remembering Tiger Road, I decided to try to reach my husband (waiting for us at Gold Hill Trailhead) by radio and arrange a new pickup site. According to the map, the rough jeep road we followed away from the trail would intersect Tiger Road in about half a mile. We left the trail near a power line, so I asked Bud to use that as a marker of how far to come up Tiger Road. We soon found we had no choice but to ford the swiftly flowing Swan River. I was beginning to be nervous about this change in plans. My companions would be justifiably unhappy with me if we left the trail, had to ford a river, and then couldn’t find Bud! So when I reached the other side of the river, I rushed ahead to see if I could establish radio contact again.

“Come in, Bud,” I pleaded. “I can see you!,” he radioed back, and indeed I could see his car just a short distance ahead. Elated, I returned to the others, who were emptying water from their boots after the river crossing, and announced grandly, “Ladies, your carriage awaits!”

This change of plans meant that we had to add 3.5 miles to the next segment, the 13 miles across the Ten-Mile Range from Highway 9 to Highway 91 at Copper Junction with a total elevation gain of 3,700 feet. Reassured that other early-season hikers had already been through, we attacked this segment on June 22 and were suitably challenged: Linda was miserable with altitude sickness at the summit, and the long traverse before the descent, lofty and
inspiring though it was, seemed interminable. We were all glad to take a week’s rest before continuing, on July 2 from Copper to Camp Hale. This is one of my favorite segments, for you hear the sound of running water almost the entire time. The wildflowers were outstanding also, especially the blue flax. We were pleased to meet several other hikers, some following the Continental Divide Trail, some The Colorado Trail, some just out for the day. We also met several mountain bikers, and observed that they were a genial lot, unfailingly courteous and smiling. One of the great highlights of our summer’s hike occurred the next day, when we encountered Gudy Gaskill on a trail crew! We waxed eloquent about the trail and the work of the trail crew, so much so that we delayed the hikers behind us!

We covered the 79 miles from Copper to Clear Creek Road over 8 days, using a hike-2-days, rest-1-day format. We were staying in motels on the overnights and returning home on the rest days. The last day, July 9, we hiked over Hope Pass since the new routing of the trail, shorter and gentler, was not yet open. On July 13 we passed the 200-mile mark. We encountered the next day, when we encountered Gudy Gaskill on a trail crew! We waxed eloquent about the trail and the work of the trail crew, so much so that we delayed the hikers behind us!

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On July 31, we started our next phase of our Colorado Trail adventure: camping out and backpacking. The weather continued warm and dry, but the lack of water in Upper Razor Creek was a problem, although we had been forewarned and had detoured to Baldy Lake to fill our bottles. We met another trail crew on the last day of this segment, and they generously offered us some of the little water they had. The trail from then on was perfectly groomed! After 3 days incommunicado, we and Bud met at the pickup spot on Highway 114 within half an hour of each other, and we were grateful for the 7-gallon jug of ice water he greeted us with.

More obligations at home kept us from covering much more ground until mid-August. We finally reached Eddiesville Trailhead on August 16, and set out with our backpacks the next morning. We proceeded slowly up the valley of Cochetopa Creek, and with a rainstorm coming in, decided to make camp after only 7 miles. We found a perfect camping site, pitched our tents before it rained, and were settling down for a lovely evening when suddenly misfortune overtook us. Linda, stepping over a log and not seeing where her foot was coming down, stepped on the end of a flat piece of wood on which Bonnie was boiling water. The stove and pot tipped over onto Linda’s foot, the scalding water saturating her sock. Open flames from the upset alcohol stove caused further alarm, but they were quickly extinguished and Linda’s sock quickly ripped off. She had not only sustained a good-sized second-degree burn, but had also twisted her back as she fell. It was clear she would be unable to continue the hike, clear that as a threesome we were finished for the season (Bonnie and I soon decided not to continue without Linda).

We administered first aid, made Linda comfortable, and considered how best to get help and to get out. Bonnie had brought along her cellular phone, and in the morning she climbed to San Luis Saddle and, much to the credit of modern technology, she easily succeeded in reaching 911 and the Saguache County Search and Rescue Unit. Linda was able to walk slowly back toward Eddiesville, and after four miles we heard the sound of motors in the wilderness. Bonnie and I ran ahead and discovered two all-terrain vehicles manned by an EMT and two sheriff’s officers, come to rescue Linda. I returned to her and announced once again, “Madam, your carriage awaits.”

Since we didn’t reach our goal, we have asked ourselves what we did manage to accomplish. When it comes to The Colorado Trail, surely success is measured in enchanting the senses as much as covering the distance. We know of no feeling so comforting and exhilarating as to descend at the end of a hot day into a grove of swaying rustling aspen. We remember the visual delight of encountering a stately bull elk on a summer morning, the soothing effect of musical mountain streams, the sense of awe not only at sweeping panoramic vistas but also at a profusion of columbine among inhospitable rocks.

As for the three of us, Linda’s burn is healing nicely, and if she marked her 50th birthday with only 330 miles hiked instead of 480, it still seems a proper achievement. Bonnie insists that the summer of 2000 was the best of her life and so uplifting for her spirits. And I have never felt younger or happier than I have the past few weeks, sitting at my keyboard and making steady progress on my book.
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