Colorado Trail Linked Together with 47 Trail Crews

Our volunteers successfully completed a difficult and ambitious summer with the joining together of the trail from Denver to Durango. Work started in mid-May and accelerated during the summer months, until at times there were four and five crews out at the same time, each linking another section of the trail together. They worked on six different forest service districts (Animas, Salida, Leadville, Holy Cross, Dillon and South Park) and completed approximately 40 miles of trail. Crews worked their tales off struggling in Junction Creek canyon, up at Molas Pass, at the variable terrain between and Tennesee Pass and Copper Mountain, around Twin Lakes reservoir, on the east side of Mt. Princeton and created a loop trail east of Georgia Pass. Thirty-five experienced leaders and co-leaders worked hard to make it happen, many led more than one crew and had to shuttle equipment to and from ramps with their own vehicles. A big thanks to everyone who worked this summer, it is a tremendous accomplishment that we will be marvelling over for quite some time.

Golden Spike Ceremonies Held

At the end of the summer, golden spike ceremonies were held at Molas Pass, Camp Hale and Mt. Princeton to commemorate the historic occasion of linking the trail together. All three ceremonies took place simultaneously on Friday, September 5th. All were well represented with volunteers and dignitaries. At Camp Hale, the Mayor and City Manager of Leadville, CMC president Richard Jones, Deputy Director of the Colorado Lottery, Stewart McDonald of Colorado Parks and Recreation, and Pete Wingle and A.C. Lee of the regional office of the Forest Service all helped the volunteers celebrate at the newly constructed bridge on Cataract Creek. The MOUNTAIN MAIL from Salida covered the pounding of the golden spike on the slopes of Mt. Princeton. At Molas Pass, the mayor of Durango and a representative of congressman Ben Campbell were on hand to praise the volunteers for a job well done. The festivities there were covered by the DURANGO HERALD, the SILVERTON STANDARD and TV stations out of Durango and Farmington. It is a shame that everyone who worked on the trail this summer did not get to attend one of the golden spike ceremonies, somehow it made the summer's hard work seem exceedingly special.
Colorado Trail Receives Media Attention

This summer the Colorado Trail is continuing to be noticed by the media, including TV, newspapers and magazines. Articles have appeared in more newspapers than we can keep track of, including: the Rocky Mt News, Denver Post, Durango Herald, Silverton Standard, Salida's Mountain Mail, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Eagle Chronicle, High Country News, Colorado Homes and Lifestyles, US News and World Report, and on and on and on. The press is obviously infatuated with the volunteerism that has made the trail possible. Articles are to appear in the future in Modern Maturity, Sunset, Backpacker and the Christian Science Monitor.

KMGH TV (Channel 7) in Denver is working on a documentary that was filmed at Molas Pass and Junction Creek this summer, that should air sometime in late October. Channel 6 in Denver filmed a Senior Statesman program on the CT which will also air in October. Stay tuned!

CT Foundation Continues to Receive Support

In addition to the contribution of countless individuals, the Colorado Trail Foundation has received support from corporate donors recently. A $10,000.00 grant from the Adolph Coors Foundation was just received in September, in addition to the $300.00 beer fund we received from them this summer. In early October the CT Foundation received a used but well cared for Chevy pickup that was won in a Mountain Bell lottery for non-profit organizations. This vehicle is very much appreciated to help haul around the tons of equipment we use every summer. In addition, Jolly Rancher supplied us with hard candy for the summer, Brand-It donated 1000 of our new logo markers, Dr. Art Sands put together three complete medical kits. Werpa's Bakery in Idaho Springs donated bread. We can't end this paragraph without mentioning the people and animals that helped supply our more remote camps this summer; The Rocky Mountain Llama Association, Tom Butterfield, Frank Lucas, Jan Thomas, the Wilson's, and Copper Mountain Stables.
KUDOS

Without the help of all of our leaders, this summer's massive undertaking would not have been possible. John Stanley, Bob Boblett and Gudy Gaskill led four trail crews. Jerry Helmke, Larry Crow and Marcie Guerain all led three trail crews. Brad Edwards, Bill Newton, Chuck Fraser, Abe Ohr and Randy Jacobs led two trail crews. Lucille Klinger, Pete Rowland, Steve Quinn, Irene Cazer, John Gunterman, Sam Young, Celia Nobles, John Determan, Hugh Duffey, Doug Hoetis, Marj Dunmire, Becky Wolfe, Denise Wright, Jim Miller, Dave Smith, Bert Peterson, Jeff June, Terry Hardie, Marilyn Robinson Joyce Johnson all led or co-led one trail crew. Long term workers on the trail crew this summer for 5 weeks or more were: Bill Newton, Marcie Guerain, Vito Tursi, Judy Fultz, Sam Benson and Hippie. Special thanks to Gerry Griffin, the only volunteer who spent the whole summer from May 21 to September 5 working continuously on the trail. and Denise Wright who spent hours inventorying the T-shirts.

We love you all!!!!!!

Postscripts

❤️ The official CT celebration has been set for July 23, 1988. Mark this date on your calendars; more information to follow in January. The 5 week hike-a-thon will start June 19 on Kenosha Pass and end in Durango on July 22. Plans for the celebration call for a marathon torch run, a ribbon cutting ceremony and trailhead sign unveiling at both ends. Additional user groups, llamas, horses, and mountain bikes, are planning events. The hike-a-thon is a main focus of the celebration and will take a great effort. We need people to help with the base camps and vehicles to help move equipment. Become involved in this historic venture.

❤️ New color (hopefully) brochures will be available soon.

❤️ The trail guide and maps will be available early summer 1988. Co-authors Pete Rowland and Randy Jacobs have recently completed the survey of the CT and report that the official mileage of the Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango is 470.25 miles.

❤️ Quite a few of the volunteers working on the trail crew this summer took advantage of the one hour credit offered by Western State College. WSC will continue the accredited trails program next summer.

❤️ We are in the process of planning trail crews for next summer. Many of the 20 crews will be in the picturesque LaGarita/San Juan area north of Creede. The schedule will be out in January.

❤️ Next summer we will be using a traveling volunteer crew that will be able to cover a lot of territory and do trail maintenance/construction. This will possibly include a backpacking or a moving car camp concept, a new twist to our traditional trail crews. If you are interested let us know.

❤️ Thanks to Marj Dunmire for letting us use her nifty computer to put together our newsletter and giving it a more dignified look!
Outstanding Animas District Ranger

Ted LaMay, district ranger extra ordinary. Those are the only words that can describe such dedication and drive that he has put into the Colorado Trail in the Animas district of the San Juan National Forest. Ted and Pat opened their home to us and we used their family room for a food warehouse, their freezer for storage, slept in their beds to recuperate, showered and used their lawn for packing equipment. Ted bought beer on Friday nights, BBQ'd the pork chops, delivered mail, flagged the trail, realigned difficult areas, met the incoming volunteers on Saturdays, delivered packs and baggage, drove latecomers into their camps, mailed out certificates, coordinated the horse or llama pack-Ins each week and bought extra supplies for the leaders. The list goes on and on. We all came to love his quiet voice, relaxed manner and obvious delight in each volunteer. Thanks Ted for making the work on the Animas district such a joy. May the trail bring your district great pride and satisfaction.

REI Sponsors Walk to Benefit CT in October

REI is sponsoring its second annual fitness walk in Apex Park and proceeds will go to benefit the Colorado Trail. Registration is $6.00 and maps will be available the day of the event, Saturday October 17. For more information, contact REI, 2200 W Alameda Ave., Denver.

T-Shirts for Sale

We still have some Colorado Trail T-shirts for sale with the volunteer logo on the back. T-shirts come in long and short sleeves and in white, silver, blue and lilac. The colorful CT logo on the front was custom designed by Jerry Albright. For volunteers and the Friends, prices including tax are $7.00 for short sleeve and $10.00 for long sleeve (please add $2.00 postage).

They make terrific gifts!

CT Foundation General Meeting in October

A general meeting of the Friends of the Colorado Trail will take place on Tuesday October 27 at 7PM at the Colorado Mountain Club, 2530 W Alameda Avenue. The slide show that has been put together for publicizing the trail will be shown as well as a compilation of the TV videos of the trail filmed the past year. Topics to be discussed will be:

1. Plans for next summer's trail crews;
2. The trail maintenance hike and activities related to the trail celebration next year;
3. Needs for volunteers to handle behind the scenes chores;
4. Ideas for the Apre Ski Fund Raiser to be held sometime this winter.

This should be an entertaining evening with lots of discussion about the future. Come and see your friends from past summers; refreshments will be served.
Junction Creek Extremely Difficult

Some of the most difficult trail building on the Colorado Trail occurred this summer in Junction Creek. Trail crews there began on May 21 and continued until September 5, and at times 2 trail crews were running simultaneously in the canyon. Steep limestone walls, virgin forests and rough broken terrain slowed progress to the point where three extra trail crews were added in July and August in order to finish the link between the Kennebec Pass trailhead and the existing trail built last summer. In August, an extra flycamp was established to cut down the lengthy daily hike to the work area. By late August, crews were increased to their maximum size. With this great effort, the trail was linked on schedule to the existing sections.

Trail Crew Reunion Rekindles Summer Spirits

A very successful and joyful Trail Crew Reunion occurred at the Clements Center in Lakewood on Friday September 11th. At least 250 volunteers converged to reminisce about the good times of the recently past trail crews. Several came from locations outside Colorado, including Iowa, Arizona, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Germany and Great Britain!! Lots of good food was devoured, slides of the summer were shown, awards were handed out and people danced to the calls of Tom Masterson until exhaustion dictated going home. Gudy and Dave Gaskill hosted a social hour before the reunion at their home near Lookout Mtn. It was a terrific time and everyone enjoyed seeing old and new friends.
Adopt-a-Trail Program in Full Swing

The 470 miles of the Colorado Trail needs continuing annual maintenance in order for it to remain in good condition. We are in the process of working up agreements with those who want to adopt a piece of the trail and care for that piece on an annual basis. Many people have expressed interest in this concept and are beginning to claim their favorite section of the trail to maintain. Organizations, civic clubs, individuals, groups and reunion trail crews are all lining up to join in with this monumental continuing effort. Everyone that is interested in helping with the Colorado Trail project now have another way in which they can lend their support. Sign up now while you can still get your favorite section of the trail.

Pride in America Award

On July 21-22, Gudy Gaskill was in Washington DC to receive the national Pride in America Award along with 30 other recipients. The award was given during a ceremony at the National Arboretum. All volunteers can take pride in being a part of this award. A reception at the White House Rose Garden and the National Chamber of Commerce, found Gudy rubbing shoulders with President Reagan, Secretary Liz and Senator Bob Dole, Secretary of Interior Don Hodel and Secretary of Agriculture Lynch. Gudy reports that his honor, Mayor Clint Eastwood, would like to ride (horseback) on the Colorado Trail in the future. She also says that Secretary Hodel would like to ski some of the trail on a trip to Colorado this winter. Stick close to the trail and who knows who you will meet.

CT Foundation Gives Awards

The CT Foundation has recently recognized several well deserving individuals with awards for outstanding service to the Colorado Trail over the past year. Jean Franck, the Foundation's fiscal manager, was recognized at the reunion for all of her behind the scene's work in keeping track of the trail crew accounts, donations to the foundation and sales of the T-shirts, hat, etc. Jean is a veteran trail crew volunteer and leader. Also recognized at the reunion was Paul Newendorp, last year's invaluable trail crew volunteer coordinator, a full time volunteer job lasting many long months. Corporate sponsors of the Colorado Trail received thank you recognitions. The Animas district received a beautiful plaque for all their hard work. Other Forest Service Districts where also recognized: Dillon (Paul Semmer), Holy Cross (Rick Jewell), Salida (Rob Lewis), South Park (Jerry Davis), and Leadville (Lee Kirsch). A. C. Lee, the Forest Service's Regional Volunteer Coordinator, received a commemorative 1987 CT plate. All leaders and co-leaders were recognized with commemorative plates. Gudy Gaskill received the Grin and Bear It award and the Golden Pulaski award for all the endless hours she has contributed to the trail for over 14 years. At the annual Rocky Mountain Llama Association meeting in Estes Park, the Foundation presented the RMLA with a plaque in appreciation of their cooperation and assistance. Wally White, Bob Russell and Bill Redwood of the RMLA were presented with commemorative plates for personally helping supply the spike camps with their llamas. Finally, this summer all volunteers received Colorado Trail pins, patches, a CMC certificate and a CT certificate. A resounding thank you to all who contributed so much to the success of the trail.

Matching Fund Challenge

Trail crew volunteer Craig Schroeder has given a $250.00 matching fund donation for tools. (Did you know that a pulaski costs $56.00?) A matching fund donation of $250.00 is needed. This donation to the Colorado Trail Foundation is tax deductible. Thanks Craig.
Welcome New Members of Friends of the Colorado Trail

Priscilla Roberts
John Pfeiffer
Thomas Hoskins
James Towns
Richard Thomas
Philip Schmauck
Barbara Boland
Patricia Paton
Abe Ohr
Charles Crist
George Levy
John Hermes
Robert Mack
D. A. Weaver
Mioko Chambliss
Mrs. William Preston
Ann Bonnell
Dorothy Cyrol
J. D. Morgan
Michael Weasel
Cavalier Trail Riding Club
Volunteers of Outdoor Colorado

Michael Bencic
Michael Hylton
Dorothy Todd
Sanford Wilson
Janet Thomas
Bruce Beier
Marian Friese
Susan Weaver
Mary Noak Bayaud
Mr. & Mrs. Wilard Fox
John DeVitt
Charlene Johnston
Aurel Morgan
Malcolm Wentling
Julie Foster
Francoise Yehle
Richard Boston
Patricia Echelmeyer
Gerald Sawatzky
Phylis Rottach
Susan Witter
Judith Munro
Ronald Viliotti
Deborah Stai
Ralph De Santis
Mary Garrison
James Anesi
Pieter Hondius
Ross Baird, Jr
Charles Fuller
Marilynn Kinnett
J. H. Richards
Hugh Alexander
Mrs. W. A. Needham
DeeDee Zimmerman
Maryanne Brush
Beverly Henderson
Bill Stansbeary

Janet Douglas
Frank Lehto
Janice Wilt
Dick Mosgrove
Dianne Madigan
Joyce Bowles
Linda Bolen
Anielia Zivmuska
Barabar Lee Walkup
Joder Arbian Ranch
Neal McKinstry
Shirley Weddle
Curtis McDonald
Norval Morgan
Ike Mosgrove
Fredrica Lincoln
Thomas Johnson
Charles Vail
Craig Schroeder
Larry O'Donnell
Marty Marten, NARTC

Return Address

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