The New Decade Begins for Colorado Trail

As 1990 brings in a new decade and a new promise for hope for our troubled earth, we see that closer to home more young people are becoming concerned with our fragile earth. As the number of hikers, bikers, and runners increases, we see a new awareness of pride in their environment, a desire to breathe clean, fresh air and a more conscious attempt to leave an area cleaner than they found it.

We're excited about the Webb-Waring Lung Institute Marathon Walk on the Colorado Trail. Clean Air Colorado will help sponsor the event and spotlight the pristine quality of our trail.

We're indebted to the Gates Foundation for the first $30,000 of a $50,000 three-year grant towards the initial step of producing a master plan.

Mark Saturday, May 19, 1990, down on your calendar for our first (annual?) Pancake Breakfast on the trail. Meet your neighbors! Make the first year a success!

Again this summer we will have 28 trail crews, with every crew undertaking a needed improvement on the trail. Will the end ever be in sight? We are looking for potential leaders to take a week-long (fun included) Leaders' Training Session over the Fourth of July week. Like meeting and leading great folks? Give it a try!

Liz Truitt, our volunteer bookkeeper, will be leaving us soon. She pulled us through our first audit for 1988, and with so many of us leaders losing our receipts, she did a fantastic (fanatic) job. We will sorely miss her expertise.

We want to again thank Martin Marietta for printing the newsletter and Anne McDonald for typing and setting up the newsletter. Thanks to the Regional Forest Service for again mailing out 2000 trail crew schedules this past week, and the many mail stuffers and Al Mauhe for zip sorting the Postal edifices.

Watch the next newsletter for events, dates, classes, reunions, treks, and hikes planned for YOU on the Colorado Trail. Our Special Trail, for you and me!

Leaders' Weekend Planned

Sun, surf, and sand. All that is missing is you. Invaluable resources gather together for a fun weekend in the mountains. Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11, 1990, at First Creek Cabin (western side of Berthoud Pass). Call soon. Limited seating. 526-0809.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREW</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong></td>
<td>6/23-30</td>
<td><strong>Mancos</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drive in. Stay in FS campground. Build new trail to connect with Colorado Trail. Elevation: 9,000 to 10,800 ft. San Juan National Forest.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Leaders:</strong> Randy Jacobs, Lynn Mattingly (303-481-2690).</td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong></td>
<td>6/23-30</td>
<td><strong>Black Canyon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drive in. Walk two miles to work area in Lost Creek Wilderness. Reconstruct trail through willows and boggy area. Elevation: 10,200 ft. Pike National Forest.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Leader:</strong> Abe Ohr (303-696-1284).</td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong></td>
<td>6/23-30</td>
<td><strong>Camp Hale</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drive in. Camp in ground campground.&lt;br&gt;Construct new trail to avoid road.&lt;br&gt;Elevation: 9,000 ft. White River National Forest.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Leader:</strong> Jim Miller.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4.</strong></td>
<td>6/30-7/7</td>
<td><strong>Mancos</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drive in. Stay in FS campground. Build new trail to connect with Colorado Trail. Elevation: 9,000 to 10,000 ft. San Juan National Forest.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Leaders:</strong> Bob Hubbard, Irene Cazer (303-377-3557).</td>
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<td><strong>5.</strong></td>
<td>6/30-7/7</td>
<td><strong>Middle Fork Swan River</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drive in. Construct new trail to avoid 4WD road northwest of Breckenridge and build bridge.&lt;br&gt;Elevation: 10,000 ft. Arapaho National Forest.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Leaders:</strong> Hugh Duffy, Denise Wright (303-973-7461).</td>
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<td><strong>6.</strong></td>
<td>7/7-14</td>
<td><strong>Long Branch Baldy-Summit Trail</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jeep in. Re-route 1/2 mile of existing trail on Continental Divide.&lt;br&gt;Elevation: 11,400 ft. Rio Grande National Forest.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Leaders:</strong> Stanley, Dunmire (303-447-8590).</td>
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<td><strong>7.</strong></td>
<td>7/7-14</td>
<td><strong>Georgia Pass-Swan River</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jeep in. Construct new trail to avoid 4WD</td>
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</table>
Crew Sponsored by EMS

**Leader:** Merle McDonald (719-599-4258).

8. 7/14-21

**Georgia Pass-Swan River**
Jeep in. Construct new trail to avoid 4WD road.
**Leader:** Larry O'Donnell (303-355-6419).

9. 7/14-21

**Beartown**
FULL Reunion Crew
Jeep in. Construct new trail to avoid 4WD road.
**Leader:** Bob Boblette (303-278-0250).

10. 7/21-28

**Beartown**
Jeep in. Construct new trail to avoid 4WD road.
**Leader:** Marshall Buttrey (303-258-3523).

11. 7/21-28

**Indian Ridge**
Limited Crew Sponsored by CMC
FS shuttle or 4WD only. Construction and reconstruction of trail in Cape of Good Hope area northwest of Durango.
Elevation: 10,400 to 11,600 ft. San Juan National Forest.
**Leader:** Merle McDonald (719-599-4258).

12. 7/28-8/4

**Matchless Mountain**
Limited Crew Sponsored by CMC
Jeep in. Construct new trail on the Gunnison Loop west of Taylor Park.
Elevation: 10,000 to 11,000 ft. Gunnison National Forest.

13. 7/28-8/4

**Kokomo Pass**
Limited Crew
Jeep in. Define existing alpine trail route between Searle and Kokomo Passes.
Elevation: 12,200 ft. White River National Forest.
**Leaders:** Carolyn Adams, Bob Boblette (303-278-0250).

14. 7/28-8/4

**Indian Ridge**
Limited Crew Sponsored by EMS
FS shuttle or 4WD only. Construction and reconstruction of trail in Cape of Good Hope area northwest of Durango.
Elevation: 10,400 to 11,600 ft. San Juan National Forest.
Leaders: Lynn Mattingly, Fred Braun
(303-443-4396).

15. 8/4-11
Limited Crew
Sponsored by EMS

Indian Ridge
Same as Crew #14
Leader: Gudy Gaskill (303-526-0809).

16. 8/4-11
Limited Crew

Matchless Mountain
Jeep in. Construct new trail on the Gunnison Loop west of Taylor Park.
Elevation: 10,000 to 11,000 ft. Gunnison National Forest
Leader: Steve Gladbach (719-564-3620).

17. 8/11-18
Limited Crew

Matchless Mountain
Same as Crew #16.
Leader: Steve Gladbach (719-564-3620).

18. 8/11-18

Indian Ridge
FS shuttle or 4WD only. Construction and reconstruction of trail in Cape of Good Hope area northwest of Durango.
Elevation: 10,400 to 11,600 ft. San Juan National Forest.
Leader: Sue Frey (303-377-3301).

19. 8/18-25

Indian Ridge
Same as Crew #18.
Leader: Steve Quinn (303-860-4688).

20. 8/18-25

Sawer Gulch-Collegiate Peaks Wilderness
Backpack. Maintain and upgrade old existing trail to Lake Pass and Gunnison Loop Trail.
Elevation: 11,000 to 12,400 ft. San Isabel National Forest.
Leader: Gudy Gaskill (303-526-0809).

Weekend Crew Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CREW</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>6/16-17</td>
<td>Blue Stem Draw-Lost Park Wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crew</td>
<td></td>
<td>Backpack in. Trail maintenance and build-up trail in boggy areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elevation: 10,200 ft. Pike National Forest.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Crew will join Tim Butterfield and RV packers maintenance group; needs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>approximately 6 people)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>7/7-8</td>
<td>Clear Creek-Collegiate Peaks Wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crew</td>
<td></td>
<td>Drive in. Trail maintenance and reconstruction in boggy areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elevation: 10,00 to 11,000 ft. San Isabel National Forest
(Crew will join Ernest Chesshir maintenance group; need approximately 8 people)
Leader: Frank Pulver (303-388-7848).

23.  7/14-15
Limited Crew
Longs Gulch-Holy Cross Wilderness
Drive in. Trail maintenance and reconstruction in boggy areas.
Elevation: 10,000 to 11,000 ft. San Isabel National Forest.
(Crew will join Chuck Downing maintenance group; needs approximately 18 people)

24.  7/28-29
Limited Crew
Fooses Creek
Drive in. Trail maintenance and reconstruction in boggy areas.
Elevation: 10,000 to 12,000 ft. San Isabel National Forest.
(Crew will join Ann Stevens maintenance crew; needs approximately 15 people)

25.  5/19
Limited Crew
Sponsored by Martin Marietta
Roxborough Park
Drive in. Saturday only. Work on state park land west of Carpenter Peak to complete tie-in to Colorado Trail.
Elevation: 7,000 ft. Roxborough State Park.
Leader: Jim Ray

26.  6/16
Limited Crew
Roxborough Park
Same as Crew #25.

27.  8/18-19
Limited Crew
Sponsored by Martin Marietta
Waterton Canyon
Drive in. Work in canyon to complete Roxborough Park tie-in to Colorado Trail.
Elevation: 7,000 ft. Pike National Forest.
Leader: Jim Ray

28.  9/15-16
Limited Crew
Waterton Canyon
Same as Crew #27.
Leader: Jim Ray

1989 Volunteers

Sorry we missed the following volunteers in the list of all those who worked on the Colorado Trail in 1989: Lona Maywald; Storme Rose; and Lennie Ecker. If we missed anyone else, please let us know, and we'll include you in the next newsletter.

EMS Sponsors Three Crews

Eastern Mountain Sports will be sponsoring three trail crews this summer through their National Trail Service Funding Project.
Their funds will pay for all of the food purchases for three crews. Volunteers can sign up through EMS, as well as through the Foundation, to work on Crews 7, 14 and 15.
Master Plan Update

On January 22, 1990, thirteen University of Colorado at Denver graduate students enrolled in a course on regional planning held their first session on the background of the Colorado Trail. The course is being taught by Dr. Tom Clark and will address concerns about management of the trail.

Gudy Gaskill talked about the formation, background, and history of the trail. CT Foundation member Alan Kania will be assisting with the preparation of the document. Classes and field work will continue through the summer of 1990.

Tips on How to Prevent Trailhead Break-ins

1. Where possible, do not park right at the trailhead.
2. If you must park at the trailhead, remove everything from the car interior—including the glove compartment—and lock it in the trunk. Leave the glove compartment open.
3. Do not leave wallets, purses, or other valuable in the car, not even the trunk.
4. Carry all house and car keys with you. All good car thieves know about "hide-a-keys," so also remove these from the car.
5. If hiking near home, leave nothing in the car that gives your home address. This includes your car registration.
6. Use a locking gas cap.
7. Make sure your car is free of any signs, stickers, plaques, or anything that might identify you as a backpacker. This includes window decals identifying you as a college student or member of a conservation organization.
8. Trailhead thieves have been known to hang around the parking areas posing as backpackers. Don't volunteer information about where or how long you plan to be on the trail.

—Frank Ashley

1990 COLORADO TRAIL TREK TO BE HELD IN JULY

Blue skies, clear streams, and good company. Hiking at your own pace. Be greeted in camp by hors d'oeuvre and juice or tea. After you set up your own tent, join the others around the campfire or go check on what is cooking for dinner. Just try to count the stars some night!

Come be a part of the 1990 Colorado Trail Trek, being held for two consecutive weeks: July 14-21 (more moderately paced) and July 21-28 (more strenuous).

Sign up for either or both weeks, at a cost of $179 per week. This is a vehicle and staff supported trek. You carry only a day pack while hiking. All meals are provided—we will be cooking hearty and healthy foods. We promise beautiful trails and good company.

For more information, inquire about the 1990 CT Trek from Colorado Trail Foundation, 548 Pine Song Trail, Golden, CO 80401.

GATES GRANT RECEIVED

The CTF received a grant of $30,000 from the Gates Foundation for the initial development of a master plan. The master plan is needed in order to protect the needs and the direction in which are future accomplishments are to be handled. It will also direct us in the concept of the need for huts, campsites, trailheads, water, and other relocations.

The Gates grant will enable the CT Foundation to work with the University of Colorado towards the development of such a plan. The Rocky Mountain Regional Forest Service, University of Colorado at Denver, and the Colorado Trail Foundation have put together a working memorandum of cooperation for the master plan.
Updates for Guide Available

Please note that those who happen to have a first edition (1988) copy of the guidebook can send for an update (1989). For your revised edition, just send $1.00 PLUS a $0.45 stamp to: Bev Lipman-Book Update, 26596 Columbine Glen, Golden, CO 80401.

Profits from the sale of the maps and guidebooks are a major source of income for the Colorado Trail Foundation, and anyone buying a copy can be assured that his/her purchase is helping build and maintain the trail.

All-Users Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday, May 19, 1990, from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, all hikers, biker, and horseback riders are invited to a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Colorado Trail. The breakfast will be held at Meadows Group Campground (formerly Redskin Group Campground), located alongside the Colorado Trail.

What could be more beautiful than an early spring ride or hike on the Colorado Trail? Pasque flowers and golden banners, along with Oregon holly and wild strawberries will line the trail at the Meadows Campground.

All users are invited to meet the foundation members and volunteer crew members who have worked many summers building the trail. Get to know the other users of the trail while getting to know the trail itself.

Invite a friend along to learn about the trail! We are looking forward to meeting each of you and listening to your comments, concerns, experiences, and enjoyments.

Can't you already smell the aroma of sizzling bacon wafting among the fragrant pines? Be sure to call or send in a registration so we know for how many hungry eaters to plan. Call Charlotte Briber at 303-756-0787, or send your registration to: CT Breakfast, 2831 S. York St., Denver, CO 80210.

Directions to Meadows Campground: Travel west from Denver on US 285 about 39 miles to Bailey. Go left on Park County Road 68, which becomes Forest Service 543. It's approximately 8 miles from Bailey.

---------CUT HERE---------

Colorado Trail Pancake Breakfast
Sat., May 19, 1990 8:30-11:30 AM
Meadows Group Campground

I (We) ___ will be coming.
(#)
I (We) represent (circle one) horse / hiker / biker users.

Name

Phone
If you did not work on a trail crew in 1989, or did not contribute to the Friends of the Colorado Trail during 1989, we will be removing your name from the mailing list and you will not receive the spring newsletter, which lists all of our important social and educational events.

Winter Park Discount Offered For CT "Friends"

Spend an evening at the ALPEN ROSE, Winter Park's new one and only bed and breakfast. Owners Berti and Robin Sommerauer will honor a 15 percent discount for Friends of the Colorado Trail.

Austrian charm, a common room with fireplace, beautiful mountain views, and a superb breakfast are all included. With hot tea and cookies, and cake served after skiing, it's a real treat!

Best yet is the price. For members, it's $47.00 to $55.25 for TWO people (double occupancy), plus tax. Write to: ALPEN ROSE, Box 769, Winter Park, CO 80482 or call 303-726-5039.

Entire CT to Be Hiked

NEEDED: Volunteer leaders to lead the Webb-Waring Lung Institute Hike.

A great fundraising event will take place on the entire Colorado Trail on Sunday, August 5, 1990. On that day the entire trail will be hiked by 57 leaders and the sponsoring corporations or individuals. The CTF will be cooperating with the Webb-Waring Lung Institute, located in Denver, on a fundraiser for the Institute. The Institute is privately funded through grants and contributions and is the foremost research institute in the United States on oxygen radicals as they relate to the lung and its diseases.

On August 5th the entire 469 miles of the trail will be walked, biked, or ridden by corporate or individual participants with monetary sponsors. There will be media coverage, possibly a marathon runner, a reception, and recognition of participants.

The CTF has volunteered to supply leaders for that day, so if you have worked on a section of the trail and know it well, then we NEED you! Volunteer to lead a group for 4 to 19 miles of the trail (depending on the section). MARK it down on your calendar NOW! We will send an application in our next newsletter for you to sign up.

Better yet, give us a call about your preferred section. In the Denver area call Gudy at 526-0809; Colorado Springs area call Randy at 481-2690; and Pueblo area call Steve at 564-3620.

Letters to CT

Dear Gudy Gaskill,

I spoke with you on the phone about making a donation to the Colorado Trail Foundation. I am enclosing a check for $40.00 to be donated in memory of my father, Milo W. Perkins, who passed away recently. He loved hiking in the Colorado mountains whenever he and my mother came out to visit from Ohio, so I think he would like a donation made in his name to the Colorado Trail Foundation.

Sincerely,

Cathy Perkins
Horseback Riders

Complete Entire Trail

My wife, Jackie, and I rode the Colorado Trail in its entirety on horseback, starting at the Waterton trailhead near Denver at 10:00 am on Friday, July 21, 1989, and finishing at the official western terminus, three miles west of Durango, at 7:41 pm on August 16, 1989. There we were rewarded, not with a cheering crowd and a brass band, but so appropriately with solitude, a clear evening sky, and a perfect total eclipse of the full moon.

I am writing to thank those, known and unknown, who are responsible for the completion and maintenance of the CT.

First, Ms. Gaskill. I would like to express my respect for your tenacity and courage in accomplishing something you deem worthwhile. Your dream to complete "the trail to nowhere" is a profound example to anyone seeking an impossible dream: that focus of will, combined with literal down-in-the-dirt hard work, can produce phenomenal results. Such traits are rare in these times, when most citizens are simply going with the flow—giving in to the inevitable.

I would also like to thank Randy Jacobs, whose CT book I held—clutched—for 26 days straight. I read as I rode across the vast rain-drenched tundra, over treacherous, unnamed outcroppings, through miles of numbing, timeless twists and turns—minefields of confusing trail intersections and tempting errors. The book, now battered, the cover almost unreadable, the pages scribbled on with our progress day by day, was from Denver to Durango a step-by-step necessity for the accomplishment of our goal. It will be framed.

I would especially like to thank a group of people who will,
for the most part, go unnamed—the Volunteers. They are a group who now must number in the hundreds, who have taken up a banner which ensures them sore backs, bruised ankles, bloodied fingers, and the chance to sleep on the ground, often in the rain. Their reward: corny things, like challenge, a job well done, a goal accomplished, fellowship with family and nature, realization of personal worth. These are simple, pure sensations, by the most part unattainable now in the hit-and-run fast lanes of America.

During our month on the CT we encountered more than a hundred people—a few other horsemen, but mostly bicyclists, day hikers, and dedicated long-distance backpackers. Those people, though of different persuasion than ourselves, were always polite, helpful, and in most cases downright friendly. When it was possible we stepped off the trail so they could remain there, but often due to steep terrain, they had to do the moving. More than once the passing was hazardous duty for all involved. I do not have words to express my thanks to these people. I can only hope our echoing, “Thank you so very much,” as we passed was taken to their hearts; it certainly came from ours.

I would like to extend our help to those who might ride the trail on horseback. There are problems unique to each mode of travel, and I would hope our experience might aid our peers in the inevitable problem areas: loose shoes; worn backs; slim pasture; no water; areas virtually impassable on horseback; and, impact on other users of the trail, to name but a few. We would be honored to receive calls or letters.

It was a month laced with rock-splitting lightening on 13,000 foot outcroppings, causing our hearts to constrict, our animals to dodge. It was cozy warm meadows, lush with grass and wildflower, causing us to tarry and doze. A month of delectable extremes: boredom and elation; survival and want-for-nothing; arrogance and humbleness; defeat and triumph.

In closing I can only repeat our thanks to those, named and unnamed, who were part of our horsebacking the Colorado Trail. Please accept our assurance that the trail that was, in its infancy described at "the Trail to Nowhere," became a trail to somewhere for us. A somewhere that added steel to our spirits; a somewhere that will excite and delight our memories to the end of our days.

D. Bruce and Jackie Pollard
Little Tree Ranch
12568 64.50 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
(303) 249-9383

Crew Member Recounts
His Week on the Trail

I'm back, for a second time. I vowed at Little Molas Lake last year that I would not again subject this aging frame, so accustomed to the conveniences of civilization, to the hard life of the Pulaski, the McCloud, and the prybar, but there are vows, and then there are VOWS. In so many of our experiences in life, Time has a way of "whiting out" the bad parts of earlier adventures, so that only the good memories remain. In February, when the Colorado Trail recruiting letter for the 1988 trail crews arrived, I again voted yes. So there I was, back in a tent designed for Lilliputians, pulling on longjohns and extra socks, and searching diligently for six feet of softness on the Colorado Mountains.

Terry Schneider, head forest ranger of the Gunnison District, met me at the airport and drove the 40 miles to Lujan Creek, after procuring a few necessities at a
grocery store with a liquor license. Heavy rain had made the jeep trail to the campground impassable, so we headed over Cochetopa Pass for an alternate campground, about seven miles to the southeast. Cochetopa, "Pass of the Buffalo," also gave its name to our campground.

Sunday: By 3pm, after a fairly strenuous hike up and down several spine of the gorgeous mountains, I relaxed under the Colorado blue sky which I remembered so well from last June. The prediction of the natives who profess to know about the weather in the Rio Grande National Forest was that we would have more rain by 4 or 5pm.

The next morning I would renew my acquaintance with Mr. Pulaski and his trail-clearing relatives, who have enable hundreds of volunteers to cut this beautiful 470-mile pathway along the Great Divide. Canada jays, black-capped chickadees, and chipmunks were my companions when I stretched out for a short nap.

Monday: Our first day cutting trail was a good one, with some 2100 feet of switchback completed up the steep side of an aspen and pine covered mountain. By 3:30pm we cached the tools and hiked back down a three-foot-wide trail, by then easily passable for hikers and pack horses. The skies were cloudy, but so far it hadn't rained. Some of the pines we Bristlecone, a most determined branch of the pine family. Some knarled oldtimers live three to four thousand years.

It didn't take long to rediscover those muscles which ache from using the trail tools. And at 11,000 feet, breathing presented a bit of a problem for flatlanders. Two Forest Service employees assisted our crew, using big Stihl chainsaws to cut some very sizeable trees. The trees' limbs would have otherwise knocked a rider or a pack off a horse's back.

It had been a hard day, but with Wednesday off, we knew that 25 percent of our work was done.

Tuesday: I didn't sleep well Monday night. I couldn't find that elusive six feet of soft mountain. I can remember several Februarys which were not as long. My Army surplus sleeping bag was probably designed for use in Morocco, and the waffle pad wasn't up to the job.

As compensation, however, there was a magnificent full moon, and for the first time in my long and happy life I got to hear coyotes calling back and forth to one another. So, the aches, the cold, and the month-long night were all worth it. There are some wilderness sounds which are worth almost any discomfort known to man. One of the best I know is the call of a loon at dusk, over the quiet waters of a Minnesota lake.

It was another hard day on a steep, rocky trail, and we had some rain shortly after noon.

I enjoyed another new experience—using a sun-shower bag. Set out in a sunny spot all day to warm up, you hang the plastic bag on a tree limb about seven feet up, and when you depress a button in the bottom of the bag, viola!, two gallons of warm water come down on your scruffy head and wash away some of the Colorado Trail. Though not up to Hiltons standards, or even Econolodge, it was a pretty refreshing shower, and I shall now be presentable in Saguache (Sa-watch) tomorrow.

Wednesday: It was another beautiful morning, and it is a day off from trail building. Saguache, 30 miles southeast of Buffalo Pass, is the county seat of one of Colorado's largest counties and home to some 650 people. The Ute Indians called it Sa-qua-chi-pa, meaning blue earth or water at the blue earth.

The Indian, trapper, trader, and miner came here for supplies for many years, but like many
Steve Janas' Week on the Trail continued

another trading post of the late 19th century, Saguache declined in importance and population. It now sleeps in the sun or the snow while the modern world goes by.

Thursday: It was the hardest day. We reached 11,000 feet, and swinging a Pulaski and wrestling a prybar provided pretty good aerobic exercises. Our tree cutters had been called to Yellowstone to help fight the big fire. Heavy afternoon rain made a mud pie of the campground, but my little tent did keep socks and sleeping bag dry.

Friday: The morning was a bit of a trial. Cold, wet, and somewhat miserable we slogged through breakfast, but enjoyed sunshine the rest of the day. The sun is everywhere where outdoor living is concerned. I can clearly understand why primitive peoples worshipped the sun and build temples to that special star.

Just before noon, we climbed to the top of "our" mountain and ate lunch on the very spine of the Continental Divide, at 11,400 ft.

Digging was extremely tough on Friday, and TGIF never had more meaning for me. It was probably the last time I would swing a Pulaski or fight a prybar. I will not likely hear another coyote howl at a Colorado moon, and a three-foot-high tent will not again be my home for seven days and seven Feburaries. But it had been great, it had been memorable, and I would not trade the experience for seven nights in any hotel on earth.

Saturday: We broke camp in excellent weather, and after profusive farewells to the good folks who made up Crew #17 and a last look at Buffalo Pass, Abe Ohr, the crew chief, and I drove the 40 miles out to Gunnison. The Chamber of Commerce claimed, "...The crystal clean mountain air will invigorate and renew you as you stroll about and admire historic Gunnison."

I was renewed, but it was a hot shower and a long sojourn in a hot tub which did the invigorating. I then savored a perfectly prepared Rocky Mountain trout while sitting in a DRY chair, at a TABLE, with a clean knife and fork, and I was, again, renewed.

Sunday: September 4, 1988. I slept all night, with a pillow on a mattress! I slept the sleep of a jawbone of Tyrannosaurus Rex, and I woke rested and refreshed, in rather stark contrast to tenting high on the Great Divide.

There, when dawn finally arrives, one crawls laboriously out of the cold, cramped tent, bent over like Quasimodo, sure you will never again resume a fully upright position. All is wet, your hips feel like wire coat hangers bent out of shape, and your first destination, the cold, cold biffy, it through 200 yards of wet grass and mud.

While making this painful journey, the aching, aging adventurer takes little note of the beauties and grandeur of the magnificent mountains which lured him away from civilization. A dozen bighorn sheep, or a bull elk with trophy-sized antlers, would not have distracted him from the overpowering call to nature.

On Sunday I flew home to Atlanta. Already, the wet and the cold and the misery were fading from my memory. All I remember are the beautiful panoramas, the falling streams, the blue and yellow flowers, and the haunting lonesome call of the coyote.

I remember another wonderful experience, one that few 65ers get to enjoy. But one, whose memories are now deposited in one of those unnumbered Swiss bank accounts of the mind, on which I can draw over and over and over again, for all the years to come.

-Steve Janas
Women's Wilderness Expeditions

"How difficult is 'challenging'? How long is 'far'? Are hiking boots a must? How often can we rest? How fast is 'a steady pace'? Can I really hike 16 miles, over two passes, in one day? Show me how to use moleskin!"

Have you ever asked yourself these questions before signing up for a hike or a ski trip? If so, you can easily relate to the 11 women who recently hiked 16 miles of the Colorado Trail, from Camp Hale, near Leadville, to Copper Mountain. With daypacks loaded, water bottles filled, and moleskin in place, our ambitious group drove from Keystone to Camp Hale in the cool light of dawn.

Gearied down for a 4-mile climb to 12,000 feet on Kokomo Pass, we were all glad for the time we had spent in aerobics class, or walking, or running the bike trails. At 11,500 feet in a big, tundra-filled bowl, we stopped to refill our water bottles in the last know stream on this side of the mountain. We enjoyed our lunches at the highest point of the trip, overlooking Climax Molybdenum Co., the Ten Mile Range, and Mount of the Holy Cross and the Sawatch Range.

The second stage of our trek followed cairns and posts. We crossed numerous streams and identified flowers such as Bistort, Parry's Primrose, Forget-Me-Not, Marsh Marigold, Globeflower, Columbine, and Purple Fringe. The fickle breezes kept us busy adding, and then shedding, layers of clothing. We reached Searle Pass at 2:00 pm. One of our members remarked that it's not often that a woman gets two passes in one day!

With seven miles to go, it was all downhill. The newly-constructed trail down Guller Creek played host to our tiring feet. Here and there we tramped on spongy peat--such a contrast to the rocky path that led us along the top. Four o'clock was designated as "High Tea", and our group stopped for a 15 minute break. All that we had time for were snacks, shoulder rubs, and the suggestion of a finish time contest.

The finish time contest sparked new enthusiasm in everyone. One guessed 5:30pm (could it be possible?), while others guessed 6:00 pm, 6:25pm, and 6:45pm (let's hope not!). The winner was the person guessing the time closest to the actual time which our entire group reached the bridge at the end of the trail. We would then have about one more mile along the Vail-Copper bike trial to get to the west end of Copper Mountain Ski Area.

The bridge! Could it be? Yes, and it was only 5:15pm. We couldn't believe it. We had made it, and in style. The winner received the first can of beer when our van arrived.

We had learned a lot about ourselves; we had seen a lot. Our feet knew we had done a lot. Smiles of satisfaction were on everyone's faces. The were already talking about next year's marathon.
Crew #7 continued the trail 4700 ft. north from where Crew #6 left off. The first 3900 feet required moderately heavy contruction, while the remaining 800 feet were fairly easy. We constructed one rock retaining wall (2 ft. high by 12 ft. long).

The Dillon District did not want stumps removed. They preferred to flush-saw them. Their rationale is that when a stump is removed and the resulting hole filled, the filling material will soon erode, leaving a hole in the trail. Since Crew #7 used both methods, it will be interesting to compare the results in future years. My observation is that removal takes less time and definitely leaves a better-looking and more comfortable walking trail.

The Dillon District provided excellent support. They supplied bottled drinking water, ice, and firewood, as well as an outstanding array of tools. They also provided centerline flagging and sawyers. As a bonus, they brought butter, sour cream, beer, and soft drinks to our Friday evening farewell party, and they assisted me in the presentation of awards.

Another example of the excellent support provided by the Dillon District was the fire. When the open-fire ban was put in effect, Dillon District installed an official Forest Service fire ring and made our campsite an approved campground. The fire proved to be a much-needed addition to our camp.

Crew #7 was an incredible group of people. I couldn’t have asked for a more interesting, cooperative, and motivated group of workers. Eight of the 21 members had previously worked on trail crews. Most of the newcomers had learned of the Colorado Trail from an article in Snow Country magazine.

SECTIONS OF TRAIL AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

The Adopt-A-Trail Program has been organized by the Colorado Trail Foundation to maintain the trail on a continuing basis. The CT has been divided into 47 maintenance sections. Individuals or organizations may adopt one of the sections to maintain it on a continuing basis.

Currently, sections of the trail have been adopted by individuals, families, Scout Troops, school science classes, horseback riding clubs, mountain bike clubs, hiking clubs, Colorado Mountain Club chapters, church groups, Army National Guard units, and groups of friends.

Maintenance typically consists of clearing the trail corridor of downfall and encroaching vegetation, ensuring continuing erosion control, maintaining signage, and performing trail condition surveys. The local Forest Service district provides hand tools if needed.

The following four maintenance sections are up for adoption: Saguache Park Road to Eddiesville Trailhead; Carson to Stony Pass Road; Stony Pass Road to Beartown; and Beartown to Molas Pass.

All of these sections are in the southwestern part of Colorado, and you can reach several of the trailheads only by 4-WD vehicle.

Individuals or groups interested in adopting one of these sections should contact Merle McDonald at (719) 599-4258 for further information, or write to him at 1580 Mt. Woodmen Ct., Colorado Springs, CO 80919.
1989 Maintenance Reports

These sections were not included in the fall newsletter

SECTION 8 — Kenosha to Jefferson Creek
Andy Riach

I was only able to work on the trail twice last year. The first time was in April on my own, and the second time was in August with David Dunklee. Some good friends, the Robisons, also paid two visits on my behalf.

Between the trips we did the following: cleared a couple of water bars; rebuilt or enlarged seven cairns; closed off false trails at many locations; relocated two markers nearer to the trail; removed windfall; and cut back undergrowth. We found very little trash, but what we did find we removed.

I have also made a couple of post signs out of 4" X 4" cedar. I have inscribed the C.T. emblem and direction arrows on them, and I will install them in the early spring with the help of a friend.

SECTION 17—North Fork of Turquoise Lake and Half Moon Creek (Mt. Massive Wilderness Area).
John R. Wehrle

There were four trips this year — two with large teams and two with small teams. All 13 miles were covered, trees removed, and water bars cleared and/or constructed as needed. Trees were a real problem, as there were many down on each visit. As of our last trip, I believe that only one remained on the trail. We were carrying only bow saws, and the job required use of a large crosscut saw. I will get it next year on the first trip to plan the year's work. We did construct one new bridge at South Willow Creek, and we repaired several others. Next year we will be constructing a larger bridge at Rock Creek, as it was badly damaged and removed late in the year. One trail crew did get to the area to repair one bridge and help move rocks on one steep slope, limiting the width of the tread. All in all, the trail is in good shape as of the last trip.

Problems — there are two main sources of damage. One is horses, and the other is people training for the Leadville 100. Horses damage the bridges, and the runners are widening the tread to stay off the rocks while training. We will continue trying to work with the people involved.

The Scouts are beginning to shape into a hard working, conscientious crew. Although slow in the beginning, I believe that there will be a solid team of workers in the future years as these boys mature. They are gaining values and a work ethic which will keep the Colorado Trail healthy for generations to come. We are building a future.

SECTION #22
Steve Combs

John Buehler of the Leadville Ranger District was most helpful in lining us out with necessary tools prior to our weekend of trail maintenance. Our crew consisted of seven climbing and mountaineering friends, who make up the core of the group which will maintain this section of trail in the future. Lee Kirsch, also from the Leadville Ranger District, was brave enough to meet us at the trail on Saturday to review trail maintenance methods and safety items. She was fun and very helpful. We were fortunate to encounter a spectacular, beautiful day and were greatly surprised at how much a group of eight motivated individuals can accomplish in a day-and-a-half.

Our trail, which consists of a portion of the old Main Range trail, has been in place for a number of years, and requires only fine tuning. We concentrated our efforts around the Morrison Creek
Maintenance Reports continued

area and did a considerable amount of work with three bog areas, one stream, and one steep slope, which required the construction of a number of water bars. Willows were trimmed and a portion of the stream bed was lifted to accommodate foot traffic.

We felt fortunate that Lee approved all of our work and was not insulted by our many good-natured jokes and comments. Volunteers for the day included: Glen Anderson; Steve Staley; Tom Sprung; Terry Adams; Tony Slavac; Phil Stevenson; and me, Steve Combs. All of the above are from Denver. We owe special thanks to Ed Shelnut of Buena Vista, who assisted us by removing a number of rocks from the southern portion of our trail.

SECTION #40
Malcolm Wentling

This past summer we concentrated mostly on the area between Blackhawk Mountain and Forest Service Road #550. This section hadn't really been worked on since 1986.

We also had a severe wind blow that topped a large number of trees, 14 of which fell across our trail. I reported the downfall to Ted Lamay on Monday, July 31, 1989. Hopefully they have since been cleared away.

Ted has treated us very well, and this past summer he loaned us the use of an old cook tent, which really came in handy due to the rainy weather we encountered.

All in all, our 11 plus miles of trail are in excellent shape, with the only exception being a small area near the section point prior to entering the basin towards Blackhawk Pass. We have a large herd of sheep (livestock) which has made a bog out of about 1/4 mile of trail.

Crew Members: Malcolm Wentling; Fred Gamble; Jerry Pederson; Greg Hill; John Fusie; Richard Poling; and Rand Moritzky.

Poetry Corner

Movement – almost imperceptible yet
I feel it
a whoosh, it starts slow, far
across the valley.
Perception is a distorted sense of
control.
How close or how far – it doesn't matter really.
A wave of motion, the air above me
is carried away, all is
disturbed.
All except me, I am untouched,
watching.
I'm at the bottom of the ocean; the
waves are foaming and white.
I think it will reach down and
carry me away, throw me against
the far ridge – onto the shore.
I am surrounded by Nature; She is
symmetrical.
Her rhythm is calming, the wind
passes over me, through the
trees.
I await the next wave.

San Juan Mountains
July 15, 1987
Sue Frey

Nature speaks to us in the
gentlest of ways, through the
comforting sounds of a stream.
through the rustling of the leaves
and from the wisdom of the plants.
Through the refreshing scent of
flowers and the vibrant colors;
the voices of nature touch the
heart...
take time to listen.

Comfrey–

for comforting

Mint-to

refresh and

renew the

spirit

Sage–for knowledge

and understanding

Chamomile–

for rest

and

relaxation
CT BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Hugo A. Ferchau is a professor at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, and chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at Western State.

Gudy Gaskill is a life member of the Colorado Mountain Club and the American Hiking Society, a regular member of the CMC Foundation Board of Directors and the Colorado State Parks and Recreation Trails Advisory Committee, and is past president and member of the board of directors of the CMC.

Gudy enjoys hiking, biking, boating, all types of skiing, pottery, painting, and more. The rest of her left over time is spent working with the Colorado Trail.

Roger Gerard has been working in the field of recreation administration for the last 20 years, in both the non-profit and commercial sector.

Roger is an active mountain trail runner who enjoys running the Colorado Trail and signing it where needed.

Along with his family and Arvada Boy Scout Troop 999, Roger maintains Section #2 of the trail from the old town of South Platte to Hwy. 126 near Buffalo Creek.
Sam Guyton is a lifetime member of both the Colorado Mountain Club and the American Alpine Club. He is also a member of Gehres 14er Fund of the CMC Foundation and of Trout Unlimited.

Sam enjoys hiking, mountain climbing, backpacking, fly fishing, and cross country skiing. When he is not doing any of those things, he is a partner with the law firm of Holland & Hart.

Randy Jacobs, a man of few words, is a licensed architect in Colorado and author of the Colorado Trail guidebook.

Alan J. Kania is a specialist in strategic planning with a Masters In Nonprofit Administration and Public Management from the University of Colorado at Denver. He is also a published author with one book and two others under contract consideration. Alan's 75 magazine articles have been published in 45 national and international publications and have earned numerous regional photojournalism awards.

Alan has been listed in Who's Who in Business and Who's Who in the West, and he is currently listed in Who's Who in the World.
Richard Lamm is a former three-term governor for Colorado; he served from 1975 to 1987. Prior to that, from 1966 to 1974, he was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives.

He is presently the director of the Center for Public Policy and Contemporary Issues at the University of Denver.

Ainsie Lee works for the Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. Prior to this, he was assigned to five National Forests in Colorado and Wyoming.

Ainsie serves as a central liaison person between the Forest Service and the Foundation. He is involved in the new construction area, working with Gudy and the ranger districts on trail needs, and in the trail maintenance area, working with the districts and the maintenance committee. It is a real labor of love for Ainsie, and he's been proud to play one small part in the Colorado Trail effort.

Joan Mason is a Colorado native and "one of the greatest proponents of trails." She has raised money for trails all over the nation, including $14 million for the Platte River Greenbelt. She is also a volunteer, teaching skiing for the handicap ski program at Winter Park.

Joan heads her own full-service fundraising firm, Mason Consulting, and she has raised three children who are also active in trails.
Lynn Mattingly has been actively working on the Colorado Trail for three years. She has led trail crews and worked on both the food and equipment committees.

Lynn graduated from the University of Texas in 1976 with a BS in Education. She is a quilt maker and owned a quilt shop in Boulder, the Calico Sampler, from 1981-89.

Merle McDonald has worked on seven trail crews in the past three years, and he has served once as a crew leader. Merle and his wife Uta have adopted Section 23 and have maintained it for the past two years.

Merle also serves on the CTF Equipment Committee and the Board of Directors, as well as being co-chairperson of the Maintenance Committee.

Prior to moving to Colorado Springs in 1982, Merle lived in the Washington, D.C. area. While living there he helped maintain a section of the Appalachian Trail.

Charles A. Russell is presently managing partner of the Denver public relations firm of Russell, Karsh & Hagan. Prior to moving his business to Denver, he was an executive with several national public relations firms headquartered in Chicago.

An outdoors enthusiast, he is a member of the executive committee of Colorado Trout Unlimited and has been honored by Colorado Trout Unlimited as 1989 Volunteer of the Year and by the national Trout Unlimited organization with the prestigious Trout Conservation award.
Dave Smith has led trail crews for the past four years; the last three crews he led were weekend crews.

Dave has been a member of the Colorado Mountain Club for six years, and he has served as treasurer and tax adviser for the CMC for the last three years. He also teaches basic mountaineering and cross-country skiing for the CMC.

When he’s not up in the mountains, Dave works as a tax accountant for US WEST Financial Services.

Denise Wright has been a resident of Colorado since 1983, and she has been a crew leader since 1986. A southern California native, she graduated from the Southern California Sierra Club Basic Mountaineering Training Course and was the former backpack director for Colorado Summer Camp.

Employed in the outdoor retail area since 1977, Denise is currently the assistant manager of REI. In her spare time she enjoys backpacking, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, jogging, 4 wheel driving, dogpacking, and jazz. She serves as Food Committee chairperson for the Colorado Trail.

Liz Truitt is retiring as volunteer bookkeeper for the Colorado Trail Foundation. A resident of Denver, she has been bookkeeper for the CTF for the past year.
FRIENDS OF THE COLORADO TRAIL

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Did You Know?

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a totally volunteer organization. No one is paid a salary and there are no office or bookkeeping expenses. The phone that we use is a private phone, the office is a converted guest room, equipment is stored in private sheds and basements. The vehicles have been donated and are maintained by volunteers. We have ongoing expenses in office supplies, stamps and mailings. In the trail crew season we have thousands of dollars of gas and food supplies, equipment replacement, and upfront expenses for maps, books, shirts, etc. Your membership is vital... Renewal or New... JOIN US!

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

YES! (Check any below which apply)

☐ I would like to work on a trail crew. Please send me information about crew availability.

☐ I would like to "adopt" a section of the trail to maintain on an annual basis. Please send me information.

☐ Please accept my annual contribution to the Colorado Trail Foundation as a "Friend of the Colorado Trail."

$15 Subscriber ☐ $100 Patron
$25 Individual ☐ $500 Supporter
$75 Contributor ☐ $1000 Sponsor
☐ Other Amount __________________

Benefits for friends of the trail include:
* Quarterly newsletter
* Discount on Colorado Trail Foundation publications
* Information about Colorado Trail functions, meetings and trail crews.

Please send me information about trail maps and interpretive guides.

Name ________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip _________

Make checks payable to the Colorado Trail Foundation.
The Colorado Trail Foundation is a Colorado based 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation.