President’s Corner

by Gudy Gaskill

Looking down in the valley below the first lights of greater Denver are just beginning to glow. Soon they will be twinkling with the dust particles in the air, but more important, a great big full moon is just peeping over the horizon. In the days past, the inhabitants of this earth had names for each of the months of the moon. This month was greenleaf moon since it was the time of new leaves. That big moon is actually a white moon, radiating light and smiling down on this earth. Smiling down on we who are so fortunate as to live in beautiful Colorado. The mountains still glisten with white coats, while the willows along the thawing flooding creeks are bursting with pussykins on their bright red stems, The Spring Beauty’s and Cottontail Bunnies.

20th Birthday Celebration of the Colorado Trail

The Colorado Trail Foundation in partnership with the Forest Service, the Colorado Mountain Club, and sponsored by Eastern Mountain Sports, will host a gathering Thursday, August 25, 1994 6:30-8 P.M. at the Governor’s Mansion in Denver. The reception will honor all the volunteers who made The Colorado Trail a reality. We will feature a stand up buffet, birthday cake, and EMS will provide great door prizes. Gudy and other very special honored guests will be present. Tickets are limited, so please call Belinda Wiman now (303-449-0696) to reserve your space and purchase your ticket for $15. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Hope to see you there!

The story of 20 Years of Partnership as written by Belinda Wiman, a member of the CTF Board of Directors begins on pg 2.

The story of 20 years of The Colorado Trail as told from the prospective of District Ranger Ted LaMay begins on page 14 and it is quite interesting since it is a view from a different direction.

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Tread Lines
is the internal newsletter of the Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published quarterly and distributed to the Friends of the Colorado Trail.

The Colorado Trail is a 500 mile long high mountain educational and recreational hiking trail that meanders through some of the most beautiful terrain in the state. It stretches from Denver to Durango with many intermediate access points.

The Colorado Trail Foundation, an all volunteer, tax deductible, nonprofit corporation, is governed by public agencies and private sector representatives. The Foundation recruits and trains volunteers for trail construction crews, coordinates the Adopt-A-Trail maintenance program, and distributes information on Colorado Trail activities, trail crews and publications.

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This edition of Tread Lines was

The Colorado Trail
A story of Partnerships by Belinda Wiman

The Colorado Trail is 20 years old this summer. It’s a great story, one about undying persistence, patience, dedication, hard work and devotion. It’s about thousands of people and their determination to preserve the natural environment through the building of this 500 mile, continuous trail of raw beauty. And it’s about leadership and courage.

Governor Lamm and Craig Rupp, head of the Rocky Mountain Region of the USFS, working on the Colorado Trail in 1986.

Conceived in 1973 by Regional Forester, Bill Lucas, as a federal bicentennial project, the Colorado Trail was to fill a void in a growing segment of outdoor users. Bill realized that the Forest Service offered very little for individuals and families who wanted to walk in the woods and enjoy the out of doors, but didn’t want the extreme of a wilderness experience. The Colorado Trail was to be a premier, scenic family trail with grades no greater than 10%. Another Forest Service goal was to increase public awareness and support of the National Forest trail system.

In 1974, Bill Lucas organized several focus groups with interests in outdoor use, to brainstorm and develop a plan. The Colorado Trail Foundation was born of this process. Three goals were outlined:

• To develop a non-vehicular trail system between Denver and Durango for recreational and educational uses. This system will include the main trail as the backbone and a network of connecting and side trails to provide numerous loops and access to points of interest and camp areas.

• Provide educational opportunities for schools, colleges, universities, organizations, communities and individuals. The corridor is consid-
ered to be a linear classroom of nature's ecosystems where individuals and groups can find the learning experiences they desire.

- Provide for public involvement, awareness, and appreciation of resource management and to encourage self-development through participation in the voluntary construction, maintenance and management of the system.

*(Taken from The Colorado Trail Environmental Assessment.)*

To accomplish these goals, the Forest Service and the Foundation drew up a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in 1976. Until this time, the volunteers derived mostly from the Colorado Mountain Club, who had already begun to rebuild and relocate the proposed trail.

The agreement between the Forest Service and the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation marked the beginning of an 18 year partnership, with both entities agreeing on cooperation in all aspects of building The Colorado Trail, including financial resources, time commitments, communication mechanisms, and other necessary elements to make the vision a reality. The Forest Service mostly cleared the bureaucratic way and provided technical assistance and personnel, and the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation proposed the projects, and supplied the gear and volunteers.

Many obstacles faced the project including lack of focus and drive. But in 1980, the Colorado Mountain Club's Trails and Huts Committee made The Colorado Trail its top priority. Gudy Gaskill was the chairperson and champion. And, although until this time, the trail progressed in piece-meal fashion, this commitment through the CMC was a turning point. The Forest Service budgets had been cut and, at first, a seemingly insurmountable obstacle, Gudy saw that the trail could be built for far less cost by the private sector through the volunteers and fund raising. Her cost analysis was based on paying only for supplies which she estimated was $500 per mile built with volunteer labor.

The effort enjoyed a boost by the personal interest of then Governor Lamm, who wanted to see the project completed before the end of his term in 1986. Lamm’s interest sparked renewed cooperation between the State of Colorado and the Forest Service over the planning of recreational facilities on federal land in Colorado. It was the first time the state and federal government worked in partnership in establishing priorities in building recreational facilities.

The Colorado Trail truly swells with the richness of the historical partnerships created between all of its volunteers and state and federal agencies. Indeed, the real heroes in this story are the thousands of volunteers who provided the painstaking manual labor to hack out the trail from the mountainside. Led by the persistent and dedicated Gudy Gaskill, the volunteers originated not only from the CMC, but they also came from all corners of the country. The stories behind these volunteers are copious, but the commonalty between all seems to be the satisfaction derived from having contributed to a tangible natural resource which will remain a legacy for generations. A legacy which will feed the quest for adventure and precipitate the special dimension of life imparted by the spirit of the outdoors.
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Presidents Corner

Pasque flowers are covering the foothills west of Denver while at the 7000 foot level the wild Golden Banner’s and purple Spike Penstamon are vying each other for the showiest space. Spring in Colorado! Spring for the CTF means taking inventory of our equipment, turning volunteers down because we are overfilled, creating new pamphlets, maps, brochures and guide book. It meant planning for a number of booths at festivals, National Trails Day activities, 20th Birthday celebration on Aug. 25th at the Governor’s Mansion (mark your calendar and plan on coming!), Swan River reroute ribbon cutting celebration, trail crew reunion, new design for T-shirts, give away hats for volunteers and of course, those endless piles of letters.

Thank our lucky stars that we have such a great working Foundation. Everyone is involved with planning and meeting. Everyone gives their time and effort freely and come up with workable, intriguing suggestions. Come join this great organization! We are looking for someone to edit the quarterly newsletter and do some creative designs on their computer. Here is your chance to shine! Be involved with our fun activities and meet a great group of individuals. There is good left in this world...it must all be with The Colorado Trail!

There are others besides the working Foundation that are almost daily involved with The Colorado Trail. A point in question: a couple of weeks ago, there was a knock on the door and a gentleman in a business suit, with a briefcase in hand, stood at the door. My husband invited him in (the cad!) and he announced that he was with the Colorado State Department of Revenue and was delivering filed charges against the Foundation for taxes that had not been paid for two quarters in 1992. After he left, I called our treasurer. Chris Abston and gave him the information. Chris checked into it and found that during the time we were essentially without a bookkeeper an estimated tax payment was made but not followed up with the appropriate paperwork. That requirement was overlooked in the confusion bringing the books up to date and finding a new volunteer bookkeeper. Chris then filed the papers and now we are due a refund. We were told by the agent that it was the first time that he had enjoyed visiting with a delinquent client and he learned a lot about The Colorado Trail. Our hats off to you Chris, your doing a great job.

We have a new trail crew coordinators, Jon and Marylin Greeneisen (303-688-2299). They live in Franktown, southeast of Denver and will be sending out the crew rosters, acceptance letters and individual packets. Merle has spent quite a few days with Jon bringing it all up to date and entering it into a new computer program. It will facilitate one call to find out who is on what crew and how filled the crews are. (All 18 of the original crews were filed by mid-April so we opened two additional crews on May 1.)

Al Mauthe, who has been keeping track of all of the volunteers for the past six years, is now in charge of all the mailings. Our two other volunteers that have every other day projects are Tom Grover and Gail Norby. Tom picks up the mail at our Littleton post office box and sorts the mail. He keeps a mail log and sends the requests to the appropriate volunteer for fulfillment. Tom fulfills the requests for general information. The checks are sent to Anne for deposit. When Gail Norby (from Lakewood) receives orders from Tom or Gudy, she does all the packaging and mailing except the commercial book orders. Commercial Guide Book orders are taken care of by Westcliffe Publishing. Gudy also keeps a hand written database and there are mailed to Jerry van Stroh in Parker, who compiles them into a monthly printout. Tom’s and Jerry’s printouts are sent to Merle, Gudy, Chris, Bea Slingsby and Jon Greeneisen. These lists are cross checked to make sure that an inquiry or
order wasn’t lost somewhere. Bea Slingsby has been sending out the thank you cards to contributors for years. She feels that she knows the long time supporters well, although she hasn’t met many.

The CT brochure is being rewritten by Foundation member Belinda Wiman and being edited and set ready for printing by Jane Wackerbarth. Jane and Belinda are both going to school full time, have half time jobs and still fit in time to work with the CT. Jane wrote and edited the green brochure and edited the Christmas newsletter for us. Belinda is putting together the exciting program for the 20th Birthday Celebration. Read about it elsewhere in this issue of Tread Lines. EMS has agreed to sponsor the event and give door prizes. The Wheat Ridge and Villa Italia store of EMS and Mountain Smith are co-sponsoring the pancake breakfast in Waterton Canyon with the CTF on National Trails Day June 4th. Come out and socialize, get a little exercise, participate in a nature walk, listen to an EMS seminar on trail etiquette while downing those golden, delicious pancakes cooked under the auspices of Irene Cazer and Pat Nagorka. George Miller will be assisting with the heavy work. I’m planning on being there, under those big old cottonwood trees, next to the Platte river, and I hope to see you there too!

I met a lovely lady skiing this winter and she volunteered to put together the 1993 trail crew pictures into an album for the celebration. Virginia Minick can use ANY labeled pictures that you have... soon (while she’s recovering from hip surgery.)

We have another exciting volunteer who responded to our plea in the last Tread Lines. He’s Thomas Carroll from Littleton and he’s writing the history of the CT. Not a small undertaking. Thomas came to Gudy’s house and went home with boxes of clippings, letters and files. He will also have to get the files from the Boulder CU historical offices as well as the files from the State Historical Society. It will take hours of reading, sorting and categorizing into years before Thomas can even start. It will be exciting to get a finished product, a historical chain of events on how it all came together. I know, but who else?

There were so many people that wanted to participate on Steve’s and Lynn’s CT trek this summer that many had to be turned down and a long list on the waiting list. I thought that it was we “elderly” people that liked to hike in comfort. NOT so! It’s young and old alike. What a way to see the country of the CT with a light load and a head held high. Such sights. Such views! Gudy’s CMC treks were also filled two days after the publication came out. It was such good news to hear that we had received both grants for the trail. The Dillon District fund from Great Outdoors Colorado for the three miles of trail is a matching fund. The Taylor District $13,500 fund for the Taylor river bridge is a fully funded project from the Off-Highway Vehicle fund. I personally want to thank both Committees for the grants and consideration given The Colorado Trail. The money will be carefully spent. The trail location has again changed in the Taylor District. The District has now merged with the Cebolla District and is headed by the Cebolla District Ranger Jim Dawson. The Environmental Acesent (EA) for the new route has started and a number of CT members have sent me copies of letters that they sent to the District in response to requests for comment. Neither routes are ideal as there is private Property that has to be circumvented. Thanks to you who wrote comment letters.

Sam Guyton, a member of the CTF’s Board of Directors, and his law firm Holland and Hart, were able to copyright the trail name. From now on the name is THE COLORADO TRAIL which distinguishes it from any other trail in Colorado. There are many Colorado Trails, but only one THE COLORADO TRAIL.

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The new brochure has new advertisers supporting the CT. Support the advertisers and we'll all help each other. Don't forget that we have slide shows to give to organizations. It must be more than just entertainment. We need to give them the message of the wonders of the CT too.

If you know of anyone that does near professional videos, we could use one of the CT. We do have out of state organizations asking us to mail them one. If its good it could be sold. Reed Donnelly and Bob Moore are working with a photographer/writer from Utah who plan on bike riding the trail this summer and writing a guide book for bikers. More publications are coming out.

This quarterly newsletter is featuring some of our adopters with the longest service. They are our unsung heros. We feature the trail crews all year but rarely mention the adopters. No matter how good the trail is built, without maintenance The Colorado Trail could not remain as the premier trail that it is. Constant surveillance and work to repair the beginning problems before they become major problems is a key element. In some Forest Districts seasonal help will work with the adopters, in other Districts they are on their own, making decisions on major or minor repairs. The unsung heros, the unsung pulaski swingers. We couldn't exist without you. May the sun shine forever in your hearts.

We also have a long article from the Animas District of the San Juan National Forest. Each Tread Lines will feature one of the 12 districts that we work cooperatively with. What makes Ted LaMay's article so interesting is that he wrote it himself and he has added some history in it that even I knew nothing about. Don't leave without reading it.

The Colorado Trail survey results will be in the next issue. As I'm writing this, over two hundred trail users have responded to Belinda Wiman's excellent survey that covered many sensitive and timely issues. It will help us formulate new goals and achievements in conjunction with our Master Plan. Many answers to the question on improving or changing The Colorado Trail had excellent ideas, observations and procedures. We thank all of the Friends of the Colorado Trail that responded and Belinda and her team for the immense job of compiling the results. Many thanks for a thankless job!

The moon is now high in the sky and the twinkling lights are a sea of color below. I wonder if we will be able to ski from Berthoud Pass to Winter Park on Memorial Day this year as we did last year.

National Trails Day Events Hosted by the Colorado Trail Foundation

The Colorado Trail Foundation is hosting a National Trails Day Pancake Breakfast at the beginning of The Colorado Trail in Waterton Canyon from 8:45 to 11:00 A.M. on Saturday June 4th. Irene Cazer and Pat Nagorka will be doing their magic at the pancake grill assisted by George Miller and two people from Eastern Mountain Sports. Come one come all!

Starting from the same location Bill Privatsky will lead a guided nature walk through the Waterton Canyon starting at 9 o'clock. He plans to return to the area of the Pancake Breakfast by 11 A.M.

The Foundation will also have a booth at the Capitol Hill Peoples Fair on both Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5th. The Peoples Fair is held in Civic Center Park in downtown Denver located at Broadway and Colfax. Our Booth will be open from 10-7 on Saturday and 10-6 on Sunday.

Eastern Mountain Sports is assisting the Colorado Trail Foundation in these events.
Lake Ann
Crew # 9
July 24-31, 1993

Leader Ernie Werren

Lake Ann is located on the upper reaches of Clear Creek, southwest of Leadville, just below the Continental Divide. On Saturday, July 24, Crew 9 jeeped in one and one-half miles south of Winfield and set up camp in a dusty clearing about one mile north of the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area boundary. Surrounding mountains and the Three Apostles on the Continental Divide provided a spectacular panoramic view and the south fork of Clear Creek provided an ample supply of non-potable water for camp use and showers.

Loretta McEllhinney, our USFS contact, located our pit toilet one quarter of a mile up the mountain from camp in an isolated environmentally secure spot and also instructed us on proper paper disposal in a burnable box and on other important USFS camping rules.

Our primary goal was to build a bridge across the South Fork of Clear Creek to replace one that was washed away. The bridge site was a 5 mile round trip hike from camp. Our secondary goal was to drain several boggy areas and install rocked drainage.

The crew of 23 was very diverse in ages and origin. Richard Fibiger and son Ryan, Peter Owen and sons Patrick and Jonathan, with their friend Marcos Mendosa, all came from Midland Michigan; Clive Bosnyak and son Paul from Huston, Texas; Bruce Herring and David Berry from Ruston, Louisiana; and Amy Young, Tricia Hardy, Lucy Marsh, Jeff Tucker, Ken Davis and leader Ernie Werren were from Colorado. To this group were added seven sturdy young Europeans who came to us via the Council of International Educational Exchange: Pierre De Cremoux and Stephan De Bruyn from France; Martina Hühner, and Akos Dombay from Germany; and Joyce Downey, Andrew Fyfe and Rob Plowman from the United Kingdom.

Sixty five percent of the crew were in the 14 to 30 year age group and all had hearty appetites. Their muscles were put to good use cutting and dragging logs, building the bridge, carrying rocks, and "mucking" out boggy areas.

A 1993 snow avalanche provided ample green spruce to build the bridge. Three stout 22 foot 12 inch logs were cut and dragged 250 yards (mostly uphill), stripped of bark and set to span a stone pier across Clear Creek. Three additional nine foot logs continued the bridge across the high water flood area. A Large stone retaining wall and stone steps were built on the steep bank bridge approach. We were all proud of our construction and could relate to the builders of the “Bridge over the River Kwai”. It was thus appropriate that the first non-crew hiker to cross the new bridge was a young hiker from Japan.

We were fortunate and pleased to have the European members...
on the crew. In addition to being good workers, they provided us with diverse evening entertainment of songs, games and stories. Soccer was particularly welcome to our young soccer players from Michigan.

Several of the crew climbed 14003 ft. Mt. Huron on the free day. Most notable was the flatlander from Louisiana, David Berry, who had never been in the mountains before. Marcos and Paul had some interesting remembrances from heir glissading and rock climbing.

This was a great diverse hard-working crew and it was a pleasure to watch them work. After witnessing the good "vibes" in the three father-son teams, I would encourage other father-son and mother-daughter teams to consider working on a trail crew. Also, I hope to have more foreign members on future crews.

Thanks to all the crew members for a job well done and to Loretta, our USFS contact, for her cooperation, dedication and leadership of the "mud muckers".

Upper: In Progress

Lower: Completed
Razor Park North
Crew # 6
July 10/17, 1993
Leader Phil Smith

Our work area was "Razor Park North." We had a great crew of 23-- Young and not so young, from various walks of life, from all over the country: including 7 or 8 teenagers. The week began on some what of a rocky road (pun intended) -- we learned at almost the last minute that a teen from Florida was under age 18, so we had to fax a release from him and have him bring it with him. OK. But he and his friend decided to do something different by taking Amtrak instead of flying to Denver. That was a fiasco! Their train arrived 24 hours late (primarily due to floods in the Midwest), so we picked them up at the station early on the morning we were to meet the others in Saguache. We made it! The boys slept almost all the way down. We also had Angela Davis from NYC with us. She had arrived a day or two prior, and stayed with us until time to depart. We all met at the ranger station in Saguache and were directed to our campsite by Jim Jaminet, Forest Service Ranger, who was really great! I had met with Jim for and entire day prior to our trip, so we had selected the best possible campsite and reviewed the work to be done on the trail.

The campsite was not the most ideal-- it was kind of a Cul-de-sac, the end of a not-too-bad logging road, but it was very bumpy due to heavy logging equipment having used it when it was muddy. But we managed. The tents were scattered at quite a distance from the main site because there weren't good tent sites close by. My wife accompanied me, as cook, which relieved me of some "kitchen" responsibilities. Everyone was most helpful. Mae was especially grateful for all who helped keep the 5-gal. water cans filled from the large container of water which the Forest Service provided for us. And we were thankful to the Forest Service for replenishing that supply in mid-week, as well as taking our trash the day they brought the additional water. The men were great at making a fire ring and logs on which to sit, so we had some great times around the campfire. There was no shortage of firewood, as our campsite was next to a clear-cut area, and there was wood everywhere. One of the women brought her guitar which enhanced our times around the campfire in the evening. Wednesday was "hot dog" menu-- we had lots to spare, since everyone scattered for various places on this our day off-- primarily to the hot springs pool not too far away, and indicated that they probably wouldn't be back for dinner. Well, most of the teens plus some others, did their thing during the day, then brought back steaks to cook over the fire! Since we were the only ones in camp, I took my wife up on the trail to see what had to be done, and to spot some places that needed a bit of additional work.

We had just a bit of rain during the week, but nothing that deterred us from our activities. The group was divided into four sections because of the large number of us, and I tried to put my pulaski to use in-between questions and instructions.

An interesting sidelight-- While working on the trail, we encountered a boulder which needed to be removed. Someone had worked on it a bit on Tuesday, then Wednesday when I was checking out the trail I worked on for 45 minutes, without success. So on Friday, Three of the boys said they thought they could do it-- and several boys bet them $30 that they couldn't get it out in two hours! This was done after we had finished our trail work on Friday. Well, they worked their tails off, but succeeded, and were each $10 richer at day's end!

It was a pleasure getting to know each crew member, though with 23 of us, remembering names was not easy. Those who participated were: Susan Bofinger, Matthew Dankowski, Angela Davis, Matthew Duster, Kathleen Erickson, Don Fleming, Steven Grande,
Catherine Kuper, Ben Leech, Dave Mahony, Sabryna and Kelly McClung, Kathy Murphy, Joel Myers, Andy Pruitt, Sug Peterson, Juan Serna, Kim Stevens, Claude Taylor, Jared Veteto, Paul Wicks, Phil & Mae Smith.

The main objective given by the Forest Service personnel was to clear the rocks from the trail for five miles of trail to the intersection of the trail to Baldy Peak. Other objectives were to fell any dead trees which were leaning or would possibly lean over the trail; fix the approaches to a small stream and the crossing; make a tread across two meadows; drain trail and put in water bars, and widen the trail at several points. It was determined by the Forest Service that the dead-end or cul-de-sac where we camped would make a good trailhead. So, if we had time, the crew was to construct a trail from that point to the main trail about 75 yards. The amount of rock in the trail and the number of trees which needed to be removed kept us from completing the five miles of trail. The crew was able to complete about 3 miles, which included the stream crossing, the new tread across the two meadows, rerouting the old trail which crossed the stream twice within 25 yards so that the stream didn’t have to be crossed at all, draining the trail, widening, and putting in waterbars. In comparison to the part of the trail we weren’t able to complete and the part west of the completed part, the work on the trail is “like baby skin for smoothness”!

One little excitement the crew had was that 2 of the crew members (names withheld to protect the guilty) decided to take the Trail to a higher point the first evening, to watch the sunset. After sunset, they couldn’t find the trail and had to spend the night out. They built a small fire to keep warm. When six volunteers from the crew found them Sunday morning, they were cold and hungry and sleepless, but OK. Needless to say, they were very careful the rest of the week, and it was a warning for all the rest of us as well!

by Phil Smith

Tank Seven Creek
Trail Crew #0893
July 17/24, 1993
Leader Phil Smith

This week’s trail work was done in the Tank Seven area. We worked with Forest Ranger Terry Schneider who was most hospitable and helpful. We had a relatively small crew, especially compared to the crew I led the week prior. The Thirteen who Participated were: Hank Darwin, Angela Davis, Rose Harshman, Zack Johnson, Frank and Charlotte Klein, Regina Vigil, Jane Wackerbarth, Clint Wasser, Paul Wicks, and Phil and Mae Smith.

We got a late start on the beginning Saturday, but things went well after that. Though the site was marked as a 4-wheel drive to, we were fortunate in being able to take every vehicle up. We camped in a nice meadow at a rather high altitude. It was good to have a “full-time cook” since Mae stayed at the campsite not only to cook but to keep an eye out for roaming cattle about which we had been warned. (Fortunately, there were none, though on the last day in camp she temporarily adopted a loveable, hungry, shy dog which was reunited with his owner before we sacked out for the night.)

Our crew had a 2-mile
walk to and from the work site each day. Our goal was to build a new trail, bypassing the old one with its steep climb on the east end and the steep descent on the west end. The Forest Service had marked where the new trail was to go and had cut down the trees that were in the way. This new trail was to be about 600 yards long, and most of it needed to have a 36" tread due to the steepness of the slope of the mountain. But, because of our rather small crew, the Forest Service’s first goal was to connect the trail at both ends to the old trail, with at least an 18" tread on the new trail. We were able to connect the trail, but had to leave about 100 yards of 18" tread instead of the 36" width. The removal of rocks and stumps took up a lot of time.

While working on the trail one day, some of the crew had the privilege of having a fawn slowly pass by them some 10 yards away, while the mother doe waited down the hill.

A special thanks to Jane Wackerbarth for purchasing the perishable foods in Denver for this crew as my wife and I had back-to-back crews in this area which eliminated the extra expense of purchasing food in a small mountain town.

We were privileged to meet several hikers during the week, two of whom stayed for dinner one night. One young man stopped by one morning, and really appreciated a good breakfast put together by our cook after the rest of us had left for the day.

We had enjoyable relaxation times as we returned from our day’s labor, enjoying some snacks, cleaning up, and just fellowshipping with each other. Our evenings around the campfire were enjoyed by all of us, too. Just one rainy evening was encountered during the week, but most of us huddled in the cook tent or the community tent and kept relatively dry. The area, fortunately, was grassy, so there wasn’t much mud to contend with after the rain.

by Phil Smith

Lost Park
Weekend Crew # 21
July 31/Aug 1, 1993
Leader Harriet Patton

Crew members were: Bruce and Marta Armstrong, Roberta Auclair, Judy Childers, Bill Cole, David Hooke, Barbara Kropp, Marty Lyman, Glen and Joyce Smiley, Dick Slusser and Mary Lynn Thomas.

Rangers Mike Hesslar and Jerry Davis located a beautiful campsite at the end of F. S. Road 134, where a grassy slope led from the edge of the forest 100 yards to the stream near the junction of CT maintenance Sections Four and Five. As usual, we were supplied with plenty of good tools plus a tank of potable water for camp. The tarp they furnished made a welcome canopy during the constant drizzle Friday evening.

Work was originally planned for a crew of 23; however, cancellations during the last few days (with four of them about an hour before the leader left for camp!) decreased the number to 13.

The six tasks were:

1. At the junction of the access trail with sections Four and Five, the old bulletin board was replaced with a new one equipped with a plexiglass

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cover to protect the colorful bulletins it now displays. Also, the trail register was relocated to a spot near the bulletin board.

2. At this junction, an unsightly rusty culvert (6 feet in diameter and 20 feet long) was removed from the stream. Under Jerry’s direction, David, Dick, Marty, Bill, Bruce, Marta and Glen first removed the bridge timber from above the culvert, then shoveled gravel and sand from the interior, built a temporary dam to divert the water around it, and dug away the bank that partially covered one side. The culvert was then hoisted onto a trailer with a winch hand operated by Ranger Davis (assisted by the “sidewalk superintendents” who were not adjusting skids and log chains). Once loaded, the culvert was turned lengthwise on the trailer and hauled away.

3. A new bridge plank was installed to replace the old one at a small stream crossing near the 100-year old sawmill site. Glenn, Dick and Marty placed the plank on large stones that were first imbedded in each bank which now affords an easy, secure crossing for both hikers and bikers.

4. A 140-yard section of trail around which hikers had long detoured was reopened and the eroded detour was blocked with trash and fill dirt to discourage traffic and retard additional erosion. Mike sawed out five large deadfall that had blocked the old section while Mary Lynn was initiated into the use of the pulaski and dragging logs and other trash.

5. A badly eroded section of trail about one-fourth mile in length was rerouted. The old trail led over a ridge and numerous “trails” had eroded an area about 20 feet wide. New trail having much less grade was flagged below the old route. The old trail was blocked with trash and the new treadline was outlined with poles. Vegetation was removed for about 30 feet at each end of the re-route and the brush cleared from the entire length. Workers on this task were David, Mary Lynn, Bruce and Glen along with Mike and Jerry.

6. About one mile from camp, the hillside adjoining the trail had sloughed off and was devoid of vegetation in a roughly triangular area approximately 120 feet long and 60 feet high at the apex. First, the sod cornice at the upper margin was removed with pulaskis and the area smoothed for a seed bed. The ditch through the middle of the area was filled with dead logs and other trash and more logs were placed horizontally at about six-foot intervals to form four terraces for holding the loose soil. The entire area was then seeded. Judy Barbara,

Robert, Joyce were assisted on Saturday by Chris Lopez, a forestry intern from Utah State University and on Sunday by Mike’s wife, Susan.

Because of the crew being spread rather thin between the six worksites, there was not as much socializing as we would have liked. In fact, the amount of work done by this “baker’s dozen” and the Forest Service personnel was enough to provide a good workout for a crew twice the size.

by Harriet Patton

Buffalo Creek

Weekend Crew # 22
August 6/8 1993
Leader Phil Smith

A crew of 25 arrived at the Buffalo Campground, (which is near the small towns of Pine and Buffalo, south of Denver) from late afternoon throughout the evening on Friday. They were met with a wiener roast and snacks since no dinner meal was planned due to the varying times of arrival.

Those participating were: Eddie Trick, Tim Quinn, Judson McClure, Phil & Mae Smith, Evan & Allen Ramsay, Mike Orzell, Pat Nagorka, Yvonne & Bruce Mohr, Joyce & Helmut Maile, Margaret Levy, Patty Lee, Pam Jackson, Abdi Jama, Debbie Hull, Anne & David Hook, Morgan Holbrook, Kathy DelRio, Paula
Dallabetta, Harvey Castro, and Myke Beardsley. There were 5 no-shows.

We had been warned by the Forest Service in Pike National Forest to beware of bears in the area. So Crew leader Phil Smith brought, and stored, all the food in his van. So the vehicle looked like a veritable tiny grocery store!

A breakfast of pancakes and cereal got the group ready to go on Saturday morning. They returned to camp that evening for a dinner of meatballs in mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and fruit salad, with brownies topped with chocolate syrup for dessert.

This part of The Colorado Trail is used very heavily by bikers. Our assignment was to fix 7 miles of trail. Maintenance was to include the felling of dead trees which were within 15-20 feet of the trail, putting in water bars, building check dams, leveling the trail where bikes had rutted or worn away the trail, removing rocks, fixing the stream approaches, and clearing bushes, branches, and trees which were overhanging the trail. On Saturday we had 3 people from the Forest Service to help us. So we divided the crew into 2 groups. Angie from the Forest Service, led on group and they began at the eastern end of the section. The remainder of the crew started near the campground and worked toward the other crew. On Sunday, the Forest Service personnel were not with us, so Pat Nagorka led the crew. Angie had headed the day before. On Saturday, Pat had been able to teach many of the crew members how to fell a tree (there seemed to hundreds of them). One of the Forest Service personnel was responsible for cutting the larger trees, as he had a chainsaw. We installed approximately 20-30 check dams. The crew worked hard both days, but we were not able to complete the entire 7 miles of trail. At best guess, we probably completed about 5 miles. Thanks to the crew for a job well done!

Our special thanks to Pat Nagorka who, though recovering from back surgery earlier in the summer, did a terrific job both on the trail and helping in the cook tent!

State Sponsored Trails Symposium
by Stuart H. Macdonald, State Trails Coordinator

The State of Colorado is holding a Trails symposium in Colorado Springs June 9-11, 1994

A short walk from the Monument Creek Greenway in downtown Colorado Springs is the Doubletree Antlers Hotel, site of the 1994 Colorado Trails Symposium. Co sponsors along with the State Parks are El Paso County Parks, Colorado Springs Parks and Pikes Peak Area Trails Coalition. The statewide conference will feature:

• Special pre-Symposium workshops:
  - Funding for Non-profits
  - Trail Construction with Bob Searns
  - Coalition Building with Skye Ridley

• Focused small-group sessions on every important trails funding source in Colorado.
• 30 workshops on state-of-the-art trails in 4 tracks:
  1. Trails and Transportation
  2. Greenways
  3. Community and Volunteer Project
  4. Backcountry Trails

• Active field trips to highlight current issues:
  - Pike trip on 10 miles of New Santa Fe Trail

-Tread Lines

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-Tread Lines
The Animas Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest
by Ted LaMay, District Ranger

The Animas Ranger District is located north of Durango, Colorado in the central part of the San Juan National Forest. The District has contiguous boundaries with three other San Juan National Forest ranger districts, (Pine, Mancos, and Dolores) three adjoining National Forests (Rio Grande, Gunnison, and Uncompahgre) and a portion of the Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Resource Area. Within the boundaries of the District are approximately 368,000 acres of public lands and an additional 22,000 acres of private inholdings. In Colorado, this would be considered a moderate size district.

Precipitation ranges from 16 inches to 48 inches and falls, for the most part, as snow. Temperatures may reach as high as 90° during June through September and may fall to 40° below Zero during December through March. The average growing season is 100 days. Most of the vegetative types between Pinon-Juniper and Alpine zones are represented throughout the District. At the lower elevations ponderosa pine, pinon and small amounts of juniper form a canopy over gambels oak, service and snow berry, wheatgrasses, bromes and needlegrasses. The north and eastern slopes in the intermediate zone are covered with mature Englemann spruce, subalpine firs and Douglas fir. The south and west slopes and crests of ridges are covered with Aspen. Parks are numerous and support remnants of mountain bunchgrass species, bluegrasses and forbs.

The District contains some of the most rugged and spectacular mountain scenery in the Rocky Mountain Region. Elevations on the District range from 6500 to over 14,000 feet. Vast roadless areas separated by abrupt canyons and rough mountains limit access to foot or horseback travel. The Animas River drainage is the dominate river system on the District. Mineral, Hermosa, Cascade, Lime, Junction, Needle and Coon Creeks are the main tributaries to the Animas River.

The Animas District has many attractions that draw people from all over the country. The Durango-Silverton Railroad traverses right through the middle of the district as it winds it way along the Animas River between Durango and Silverton, Colorado. One of our nation’s premier Scenic Byways, the San Juan Skyway (Hwy # 550) offers outstanding scenery and stunning vistas as it climbs from Durango to Red Mountain Pass (11075 ft) crossing both Coal Bank Pass (10,660 ft) and Molas Pass (10,899 ft) along the way.

Other less well-known attractions on the Animas District are: Falls Creek Archaeological Area (Durango Rock Shelters), Weminuche Wilderness, Hermosa Backcountry, Ice Lake Basin and, of course, the most scenic and spectacular trail in Colorado, The Colorado Trail.

The San Juan National Forest recently established the Falls Creek Archaeological Area. This was made possible by the acquisition of the 530 acre Hidden Valley Ranch. Through the efforts of hundreds of concerned citizens and the Trust for Public Lands, The Forest Service was able to acquire Hidden Valley. This land and some surrounding National Forest Lands make up the 1500 acre Falls Creek Archaeological Area. Included in the area are the Durango Rock Shelters (Esther’s Cave) which are of national significance and are included in the list of National Historical Places. It is believed that the area was occupied by humans for the past 9,000 - 10,000 years. A Plainview or Plainview-related point found in this area has been assessed as the earliest (oldest) artifact documented from the San Juan National Forest. It was also documented here that early man abandoned a nomadic hunting and gathering existence in favor of a farming and village life.

The Weminuche Wilderness is the largest
wilderness in the State of Colorado and one of the most popular. One of the most heavily used portion of that wilderness is Chicago Basin. Although actively mined during the turn of the century, Chicago Basin has become a very popular place in which to visit the Wilderness. Most visitors come to the Basin via the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Mountain climbers use the Basin as a jumping-off spot to “bag” the “Fourteeners”. Three fourteen thousand foot peaks can be reached from the Basin, they are Mt. Eolus (14,083), Windom Peak (14,082) and Sunlight (14,059).

Although best known for their towering summits, the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado are also characterized by deep, well forested canyons that offer all the solitude a person could hope to find. One such place is the lower Hermosa Creek Drainage or, as it is now referred to, the Hermosa Backcountry. This 80,000 acre preserve has remained for the most part untouched by civilization. It shares many of the pristine characteristics that wilderness areas possess. But, because it is not officially designated as such, the Hermosa Backcountry does not attract throngs of visitors. With some 120 miles of hiking trails, one of which is The Colorado Trail, access into and around the area is easy.

If you enjoy mountain wild flowers at their very best, Ice Lake Basin is a place you’ll want to visit. The Basin is located on a side drainage of South Mineral Creek. It is accessed by the Ice Lake Trail that leaves the road from the trailhead at South Mineral Campground. This is Colorado mining country and, although mining has left its mark in the area, the natural rugged beauty of the area has you looking past the scar left by miners to take in all the wonders that nature has to offer. Photos of the wild flowers in the basin have appeared in many magazines, wall calendars and coffee table books.

Imagine a hiking trail that will trace a 500 mile route through some of the most interesting and varied mountain country in Colorado. Make it a relatively gentle trail so that anyone in modest physical condition can enjoy it. Plan the route in segments so it can be walked a little at a time or more if one wishes. Be sure there are lots of easy access of “feeder” trails, and above all, make the whole route interesting, even educational. Let it take hikers through a maximum variety of ecosystems, over all kinds of terrain, past historical sites from the by-gone mining and pioneer days. Let them discover first hand all the richness the Colorado Mountains have to offer. And finally, give the route a name. Keep it simple and direct. What could be better than The Colorado Trail. The above description of the Colorado Trail appeared in an article written by the late David
Summer, Conservation Editor for Colorful Colorado Magazine that was published twenty years ago this summer. This description of The Colorado Trail is as fitting today as it was twenty years ago except today it is a reality and not just a dream.

As I remember, my involvement with The Colorado Trail started with a meeting in Salida, Colorado in the spring of 1975. Although I was well aware of The Colorado Trail and had read articles about it, this was my first official involvement with the project. The meeting was held to inform the Districts that might eventually become involved with the trail, what the project was all about. The goals of the trail, standards desired, routing of the trail and use of volunteers, I was the District Ranger on the Piedra District at the time and my fellow rangers on the Pine and Animas District also attended. On the way back to the San Juan, we discussed our concerns about the project and it can be said that our first impressions of the project was one of skepticism. Our major concern was the routing of the Trail through the Weminuche Wilderness. The San Juan Primitive Area had been designated the Weminuche Wilderness in January of 1975. The impact of that designation was not fully understood at that time and all the Rangers were concerned that routing the trail through the Wilderness would certainly put additional pressure on the corridor selected. The tentative route selected was down Vallecito Creek which was the most heavily used area in the Wilderness and the least acceptable route from the San Juan National Forest viewpoint.

Since there was no feasible route for the Colorado Trail around the Wilderness, the Forest recommended a route through the least used portion of the Weminuche. This happened to be the Middle Fork of the Piedra River which was on the Piedra District. This route would at least keep the Colorado Trail out of the most heavily used areas of the Weminuche. One major problem with this route, was that it was unacceptable to the Rio Grande National Forest, since it put use into their portion of the Weminuche. They had selected a route that would avoid the Rio Grande portion of the Weminuche entirely. They appeared to have the trump cards and were not amenable to negotiations.

The other major concern most of the Rangers had was the proposal to build the Trail with volunteer labor. We did not believe the leaders of The Colorado Trail understood the difficulty of attempting to build many miles of new trail using volunteer labor. It had been our experience that you got what you paid for. Our past experience with volunteers was a mixed bag. The work we had volunteers done in the past was easy compared to the hard physical labor that would be expected of these volunteers. It appeared to us, The Colorado Trail was an additional unfinanced impact on Districts that already felt stretched-out in funding and manpower.

For the first few years of the project, the San Juan National Forest was not impacted. Progress on the Trail from 1975 to 1977 was reasonably good but not up to expectations. By 1978 it was becoming apparent that the project was in trouble. Reports we were hearing was that the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation (CMTF) was having internal problems and contact between the CMTF and the Forest Service was suffering. Not being in a position to fully understand the situation, it appeared that the CMTF and the Forest Service were having problems defining the role of each party and communicating with each other.

The Regional Office was working on the Environmental Analysis that would cover the entire trail corridor. The original target date for completion of the FA was June 30, 1978 but it was not completed and signed until February 1980. In the meantime the trail construction was being covered with project type FA's. I'm sure the San Juan-Rio Grande conflicting routes were part of the problem. I could be wrong but I believe the
Regional Forester instructed the respective Forest Supervisors to reach an agreement or the decision would be made for them. So, on May 30, 1978 the Forest Supervisors signed a joint agreement that the trail would come up Bear Creek on the Rio Grande and come down Elk Creek on the San Juan National Forest. This decision meant the Trail would cross Highway # 550 at Molas Pass. That being the case the Piedra District was out of the picture for The Colorado Trail and I soon lost contact with what was going on with The Colorado Trail.

In May of 1979, Bill Lucas stepped down as President of the foundation. The CMTF was essentially inactive. What little work was done, was being done by Gudy Gaskill and her Colorado Mountain Club Committee in conjunction with what some Forest Service Districts were doing. On the San Juan National Forest, the Colorado Trail was a dead issue. I transferred to the Animas District in November of 1979. We were deeply involved with the Forest Plan during the early 1980s and I do not remember the Colorado Trail being discussed as an issue even once. While some work was done on trails that would eventually become part of The Colorado Trail no plans were made to address the Colorado Trail.

The Forest Plan was approved in September 1983 and was appealed by the State of Colorado for several reasons. One of those reasons relates to the role of recreation in the overall management of the San Juan National Forest. As part of the agreement with the State, the Regional Forester agreed to place more emphasis on the completion of The Colorado Trail. This was easy to agree upon because the Forest Service was on record as considering the Trail as a beneficial and viable project. But the real catalyst appears to have been "The Trail to Nowhere" article that appeared in the December 9, 1984 issue of the Denver Post. The article generated a lot of interest in the Trail and lots of offers to help. A meeting was held on February 26, 1985 to decide on a course of future action. As a result of the meeting, a new group was formed that was called "Friends of the Colorado Trail."

All of a sudden, things began to happen. The Forest received a request from our Regional Office (RO) asking for the Forests’ project proposals by April 3, 1985. This request was passed on to the Animas District, since most of the San Juan portion of the Colorado Trail is routed through lands administered by the District. I was so out of touch with the Colorado Trail project, that I was forced to look at the Environmental Assessment to find the location proposed for the Trail from Molas Pass to Durango. I was not impressed with the proposed location. There is some truth in the saying that if you put 10 rangers in a room to make a decision, you’ll come up with 15 proposals. I sent a new proposal to our Supervisor’s Office (SO) and they passed it on to the RO. The RO not only approved the relocation but requested our estimation of how much construction/reconstruction would be needed to complete the San Juan portion of The Colorado Trail by the summer of 1986.

Understand that at the time I was very skeptical of the whole project. I had not worked with Gudy on any projects. I did not appreciate what a determined and dedicated person she was. I have since mended my ways. But at that time, The Colorado Trail project had been around for eleven years and not one foot of trail had been completed on the San Juan National Forest. Now the Regional Office was asking what would be needed to complete the Trail by September 1986. I replied that it seemed unrealistic to think that we would be able to complete and estimated 32 miles of new trail construction, using volunteer labor and do it in an 18 month period. I recommended completing the project over a three year schedule or by 1988. In 1985, we did spend some time checking out proposed trail
locations to see if the trail corridor we had selected was feasible. We did have some concern with the Junction Creek portion of our selected route but, for the most part, we believed our location for the trail was a good one.

When the crews arrived in early June 1986, the District had about three miles of trail flagged out. I wouldn’t have been too surprised if that was all the trail we could get built that first summer. Gudy insisted that it would take only three weeks to complete what was flagged out. I was not convinced. But after one week the crews had a mile of trail in place and I had to take the situation seriously. The crews were constructing trail so much faster than I believed possible, that at times, the flagging of the trail was only one or two weeks ahead of construction. If I had any doubts about the capabilities of volunteers it was rapidly disappearing. I found the people making up the crews were great to be around. They believed in what they were doing and were, for the most part, having fun doing it. I soon found myself spending more and more time on the Colorado Trail and spending more time with the volunteers. By the end of the season, I was a true believer in what these people were able to accomplish. The quality of the trail was as good or better than what I was able to achieve with my own force account crews. Over two hundred volunteers made up twelve crews that worked from June 7th to August 30th, 1986. They built twelve miles of quality trail, had fun doing it and won the admiration of some mighty skeptical people.

The next year, 1987, was even better because the District understood what these people were capable of doing. We were better organized and better prepared to handle the impacts. The Colorado Trail became the District’s number one priority. The goal that year was to complete 20 miles of trail to link up the existing trails and to complete that portion of the Colorado Trail that is on the San Juan National Forest. In 1987 over five hundred volunteers made up twenty seven crews that worked from May 23rd to September 5th, 1987.

It was on September 4, 1987 that we held our “Golden Spike” ceremony at Molas Pass to celebrate the completion of The Colorado Trail. Other “Golden Spike” ceremonies were held at Camp Hale and Mount Princeton. The efforts put forth during those two years by the volunteers can only be described as unprecedented in the State’s history. In 1986, some 400 volunteers labored in 20 trail crews building new tread for The Colorado Trail. The following year, nearly a thousand volunteers happily took up their tools in 46 trail crews. The complicated logistics taxed the Foundation’s volunteer organizers, who used their own vehicles to supply and relocate the trail-crew base camps that moved along with the progression of the trail work. In the two year period that the Friends of the Colorado Trail worked on the San Juan National Forest, I conservatively estimated that they contributed over $160,000 of labor. They won my respect and admiration. I had the opportunity to get to know some great people, people from all walks of life and ranging in age from 12 to 81. It is an experience that my wife and I will cherish and remember long after my Forest Service career has ended.

We have been fortunate over the intervening years to be able to host Colorado Trail Foundation Crews, as we try to bring the old existing trail up to the standards used to construct the new portions of the Colorado Trail. Places like Indian Trail ridge, Rolling Mountain, Grindstone, Cascade, Sliderock, Walls Gulch and orphan Butte have been visited by crews which have reconstructed trails long neglected. From 1989 to 1993 about 15 miles of trail have been constructed/reconstructed at an estimated value of $75,000. I’m really grateful to have been involved with The Colorado Trail and to get to know so many fine people who share my love for their National Forest.
The Adopt-A-Trail Program

The Colorado Trail Adopt-A-Trail Program is the method the CTF has chosen to maintain the CT on a continuing basis. The CT is divided into 50 adoption sections. The sections are adopted by individuals, groups and organizations. The adopters are responsible for surveying their section at the beginning of the hiking season to insure that it is open and perform minor maintenance such as clearing obstructions and maintaining erosion control structures. In addition, the adopters report on the condition of the CT to the CTF and the Ranger District.

All of the sections are currently adopted. The turnover is about 10% per year. There is a short waiting list for the northern sections. The waiting list is maintained by the AAT coordinator, Merle McDonald 719-599-4258.

The following 11 stories are written by the adopters to give you an idea of who they are and why they have adopted a section of the CT. One central theme always comes through, they love taking care of the Colorado Trail. They are great people!

AAT Section 2
South Platte to County Rd 126
Adopter: Boy Scout Troop 999

The Eastern end of this section is located about a hundred yards across the river from the now boarded up South Platte Hotel. The west end is Jefferson County Rd 126 about 3 miles south of the town of Buffalo Creek. We maintain this section of trail with a co-adopter arrangement between the Roger Gerard family and Boy Scout Troop 999 of Arvada Colorado. The troop has made this trail maintenance a regular part of its annual calendar of activities since just after the trails' official dedication.

In addition to routine maintenance of the trail, we have had three boys do significant improvements to the worst spots on this section as their Eagle projects. In two of the projects, very steep inclines were by-passed, making the trail safer to use and eliminating two seemingly endless erosion problems.

About a mile and a half east of Top of the World Campground the Trail crossed an access road, utilizing about 200 yards of the roadbed. The third young mans project re-routed about a 1500 foot section of the trail so that the trail crosses the road in a perpendicular manner. Again making the trail a little safer for trail users and a little bit more pleasant too.

As we prepare for this years trek, it is encouraging to see the enthusiasm that is present in the attitudes of these young men about going up and improving "our part of the trail". At the same time this experience helps us to instill in these young minds Scouting's long standing tradition of "service to others."

Don Johnson, Committee Chairman

AAT Section 4
FS Rd 543 to Lost Creek Campground
Adopter: Tom Butterfield, Foxton CO

We had been riding the Colorado Trail in the area of the Top of the World Campground for some years before I noticed in an NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) newsletter that the Colorado Trail Foundation needed help in maintaining the trail. There is an informal group of people in this region who enjoy riding together and we wanted to help with the maintenance of the area close to home, but it was already spoken for. I had been over the Hooper Trail, during the winter, years ago, so we, the RV Packers, applied and got that section. At that time, we

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I have to say that contrary to a recent comment in the newsletter, "pack animals" did not make our bog—but it was there when we first saw it. (Ed note: According to the official guide book this portion of the trail was built between 1885 and 1887 at a cost of $1700. This was much more than anticipated due to several areas of marsh having to have corduroy treatment.)

Aside from clearing downfalls and cleaning waterbars, our first priority has been building causeways over the bog. After building several hundred yards of these causeways, we hear that the USFS has maybe found a usable route around this obstacle. Perhaps this year we will get the new route established.

Tom Butterfield

AAT Section 6.
F.S. Rd 817 to Rock Creek Rd

Crew leader Harriet Patton

These crew members volunteered to maintain Section 6 as a gesture of appreciation for all mountain trails: LaVeta and Ruven Bermudez (equestrians), Mary K and Phil Hansen (bikers), Denise Wright (hiker/backpacker), and Mary Stockdill (hiker - retired from the crew in 1993).

With all but one and one-half miles in Lost Creek Wilderness this is an easy section to hike; elevation gain is less than 1,000 feet in eight miles. At the west end is Rock Creek with its historic cow camp. Then for three and one-half miles the trail contours a south facing slope through an open meadow interspersed by stands of aspen and bristlecone pine. Besides offering spectacular views of South Park and the Collegiate Range, several rock out crops above the trail are habitat for bighorn sheep. The remaining four and one-half miles wind through forest intersected by several small streams where one can water a horse or a dog and enjoy a refreshing break on a warm day.

When we adopted Section 6 in 1987, indications were that there had been little recent use and even less maintenance. Some of the tread...
at the west end was actually a “trough” as much as a foot deep, and in the eastern part aspens shoots grew in the tread - some as tall as eight feet! We soon had the trail cleared of encroaching aspen and after a few seasons of pulling berm we had the trough filled in. The main trouble spot is a bog through the willows at the head of Black Canyon. Although a week-long work crew a few years ago improved it considerably, we view it as an ongoing challenge.

Harriet Patton, Denver

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AAT Section 10
Georgia Pass to North Fork of the Swan
Adopter Diane Parker

In 1987, I adopted Section 10 (Georgia Pass to Gold Hill) which was then a 10-mile section. In 1993, it was rerouted due to the trail crossing so much private land and to get it off of the rather unpleasant Tiger Road. At that time, Section 10 was divided at the North Fork of the Swan River due to its increased length and maintenance requirements. During those years I found recruiting different volunteers to work on maintenance of this section more interesting than having the same group of people all the time. Therefore, there has been a group of Boy Scouts from Aurora, a couple of camera clubs, co-workers, relatives and friends whom I have been able to cajole, promising an unusual and interesting weekend of hard work and fun! I have a 13-year-old nephew who has been my number one helper since he was about 8 years old. We hope to put his younger brothers to work a couple of weekends this summer so they can learn about what it takes to maintain a mountain trail. So far, I haven’t had any complaints!

We’ve spent a few summer weekends grooming and cleaning up this section from Georgia pass to the old jeep road. This section of 10 is pretty well self-maintained. The greatest concern, when turning in my yearly report, is the switchbacks. Traffic, especially bicyclists, are widening the turns and causing erosion and the destruction of the foliage along the turns. Last year, when walking that section to turn in my report, we put a lot of big rocks and large tree branches along some of the switchbacks in hopes that this would discourage this thoughtless practice.

The rest of this section, from the old jeep road to the creek, needs a lot of serious clean-up as a result of some logging activities. This may entail having Forest Service personnel involved since there are several tree trunks that desperately need to be removed and would involve the use of a chainsaw. I am greatly concerned for the safety of the bicyclists, who, at the present, must hoist their bikes over the many tree trunks that block passage on the trail. At this point, there is no way for llamas and horses to pass.

Diane Parker, Bennett, CO

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AAT Sections 14 & 15
Hwy 24 to Tennessee Pass to Wurtz Ditch
Adopter Dawn Barton Keating

We are a group of 15 women who have adopted sections 14 & 15 of The Colorado Trail near Tennessee Pass. Our 8 miles of trail are easily maintained because they go through lodgepole pine, open meadows and parts of the historic Camp Hale. Since our sections have been easy to maintain, we often find ourselves chatting the day away as we hike along. This eventually inspired us to name our group the “Colorado Yaks”, not because we are especially sure-footed, but because 15 women can do a lot of, --- well, --- yakking.

Most of us are former Forest Rangers or backcountry guides living in the Vail-Aspen area. Adopting the trail was originally a way for us to satisfy our addiction to trail maintenance that developed in our years as rangers and guides. Since adopting the trail in 1988, the trail has become more of a

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The "Colorado Yaks" maintenance crew enjoying a side trip to Kokomo Pass

Continued from page 21
place for all of us to get
together and share in each
others lives. Over the past 5
years, 6 of us have had babies
(all girls!), 2 have gotten
married and almost all have
changed jobs once or twice.

We get together 3 times
over the summer to walk the
trail for maintenance. In the
fall, we have an overnight
campout in the area to plan for
next year. It is our goal to keep
the trail in excellent shape not
only for the people using it, but
also as a way to demonstrate
stewardship of the backcountry
to our daughters - whom we
hope one day will inherit our
sections.

Dawn Barton Keating

AAT Section 29
Sargents Mesa to North Pass
Sergeant Larry L. Burch
Colorado Army National Guard

Way back in 1987, I
tried to get onto one of the
construction crews, but I didn’t
succeed because all of the
openings were taken. Then I
received a letter asking for
volunteers to adopt sections of
the trail. Seeing a section called
Sargents Mesa, I thought that
would be a natural choice for
the National Guard to adopt. As
a sergeant in the Army Guard, I
at once liked the name despite
the difference in the spellings
of sergeant (the rank) and
Sargents (the mesa).

Sargents Mesa rises
from the North-west floor of the
San Luis Valley to a height of
more than 11,000 feet. This
high and dry mesa is relatively
level for Colorado High
country, and therefore makes
for easy going. Most of this 20-
plus mile section is covered in
lush grass meadows bordered
by thick stands of tall pine trees.
Just west of Baldy Lake the trail
passes through a volcanic zone
with the trail covered in a
volcanic type gravel which
doesn’t support much
vegetation.

While there is enough
moisture to support this
abundant vegetation, there is
little potable water to be found
along this section. As the trail guide states, the first water found along the east-to-west route is at Baldy Lake, one-half mile off the trail. It’s a short but steep decent to the lake, but well worth it for the cool water and the beauty of the lake.

Since this is a short story, I’ll just relate a couple of highlights I’ve enjoyed along our section. One of my most memorable evenings was sitting atop Sargents Mesa while watching the full moon rise above the Great Sand Dunes in the distance. Just behind the sand dunes Blanca Peak and Little Bear rise to meet the moon. From this distance, there is little sign of civilization. It was like a time machine; I looked around for some indication of what century we were in, but none could be found. No lights were visible on the valley floor, nor were there any fences, power lines, cabins etc. on the mesa.

If you’re into star gazing, few places could rival the mesa for dark sky viewing of the Milky Way. It’s high and very dark here with open views of the horizon which seems to drop away below you, a great place for night viewing with binoculars or telescopes.

Another highlight is the great Elk herd which we seem to encounter most often in the Razor Creek area. Late one afternoon we watched as two herds, each of 30 to 40 elk, approached each other from opposite directions in the Razor’s valley. It made a beautiful sight as the herds combined into one with the low sunlight adding drama and color. We froze in our tracks to view the spectacle, then very slowly we proceeded toward them and on to our campsite in the valley. With almost every movement we made the elk would also move away to keep their desired distance from us, until finally they moved on into the woods. Later that evening the herd moved back down the valley and passed our camp just beyond the light of our campfire.

So if you’re looking for some easy walking, great views of the San Luis Valley and the night sky, and elk herds if you’re lucky, come on down to see the “Sargent.” We’ll have the fallen timber cut and the trail marked, just for you.

Larry Burch, Aurora

AAT Section 33
San Luis Pass to Spring Creek Pass
Adopters: Ken and Helen Stagner, Aurora, CO

Last Summer Down By Creede

So, Helen and I were walking back to the truck in late afternoon, back downhill along East Willow Creek that pretty much shoots through Creede in a big hurry. We weren’t walking very fast though, even if it was down hill. We had spent the past several hours working on a stretch of reroute to move the trail uphill a bit and out of the muck created by snow melt. Larry Mack had contributed a couple of blisters to the endeavor the day before, cutting out willows, and “she who must be obeyed” and I had pretty much finished up the project. What’d you say? Were we tired? Hey, was the sky turquoise that week? Yes, we were dragging a bit. When we got to the truck, I got the two lawn chairs out, positioned them on the shady side facing east, and popped a couple of brews. Man alive and boy howdy! Did those few moments feel good!

And that’s one of the things you wonder about now and then. If we had driven up the track and parked and not done any trail work but just sat down and had a beer, it wouldn’t have been nearly as much fun. And this is coming from a fellow who enjoys his libation even indoors at a considerably lower elevation! No, there’s something else at work here. Like most anyone, I’ve come home from work feeling rather fatigued in a quite different way, drained and sapped and stressed. But I feel a “cozy weariness” when I have been swinging a pulaski in the high country. And Helen surely does too. At least I assume so.

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What’d you say? Where was this and when? Well, it was on adoption section #33 which runs east to west from San Luis Pass to Spring Creek Pass about 15 miles over Snow Mesa (or vice versa if you are from California.) And it was last summer over the 4th of July. We had rendezvoused with Larry and his buddy John Starkey at Spring Creek Pass. They had already scoped out the climb to the top of the mesa, making sure there were no unsatisfactory impediments to travel. Then we went around to the east end, stopping in Creede at the Muck Bucket to inquire of local conditions such as the degrees fahrenheit at which they preferred to serve their product. The chill factor seemed about right for that time of year.

So I’m here to say this is a good thing I like it. Now you ask, is it the camaraderie experienced with fellow crew members, or is it the satisfaction of physical work well done, or is it the sense of release and relief felt as you listen to the stream tumble over rocks on its way to the Gulf of Mexico? Well, the obvious answer continues to be... YES!

Ken Stagner, Aurora

AAT Section 37
Rio Grande River to the Continental Divide
Adopter, Bill Weber

The seven miles of section 37 follows a 4wd road across a broad ford of the Rio Grande and up the Bear Creek valley to the now vacant site of the old mining town of Beartown, in a beautiful meadow at 11,500 elevation. The trail then switch-backs through sparse timber and lovely meadows up onto the Continental Divide, with spectacular views in all directions. Section 37 ends above 12,600 feet on the Divide.

Three of us have worked on the section as adopters. Holly Cook, a teacher and coach at John Dewey Middle School, lives in Littleton, Kathleen Orozco, a consultant on art and antiques, resides in Denver. Bill Weber, a retired oil exploration geophysicist and grandfather, makes a home with wife Patty in Boulder.

Getting to our section is a test of how well the organs are anchored in the body as the two hours of four wheeling up and over Timber Hill slowly pass. This is a wagon road which first supplied Silverton in the last century. Our first trip in mid June 1991, the ford of the Rio Grande looked wide and deep! Cold winds discouraged a wading check. We plunged in and the F-250 pulled through, with water lapping at the doors. Camp was set up in the open near Beartown site with cold winds but
fine views. Elk watching was great during cocktail hour. Our work involved chopping skunk cabbage, making drainage structures, and sawing deadfall. A point of confusion existed as the trail ascended the divide, which probably caused John Fayhee to log a few extra miles as described in his excellent book *Along the Colorado Trail*, co-authored with the renowned nature photographer John Fielder.

Prior to our 1992 trip the route was discussed with Merle McDonald the Adopt-A-Trail coordinator. The more gentle trail was selected which we then marked with cedar posts obtained from the helpful staff at the Creede Ranger District. Transporting of the posts was hampered by three feet of snow still overlying portions of the trail. Homeward bound, Holly and I cresting Timber Hill, were confronted with a 2-1/2 foot in diameter tree across the road! A quick check of cutting tool inventor revealed: a bow saw, an axe, and two knives. No Way! Our food wouldn’t last long enough. A heavy duty come-along was employed to move the tree. An hour and a half of bicep exercise and we were out of there!

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The 1993 trip was in early August. The flowers were unbelievable! More sign post, drainage and cross cut saw work. One afternoon we found camp had been wrecked by vandals! Fire pit destroyed, grill kicked over, coolers overturned, and dog bowls flattened. We could see the culprits in the distance. Thought about attacking them but the bull looked pretty tough. So we settled for Kathleen calling them appropriate names.

These adopter maintenance trips have indeed been a yearly high point and with spring approaching the 1994 trip isn’t too far away.

Bill Weber, Boulder

AAT Section 39.1
Molas Pass to Rolling Mountain
Adopter: John Watt

This is an 11 mile section of The Colorado Trail that starts at Molas Pass on Hwy 550 and heads west to Rolling Mountain Pass. For the first 4.5 miles the trail climbs from 10,900’ to 11,500’ through mostly open country and requires little maintenance. The next 2 miles have a sliding hillside, some intermittent wet spots and occasionally a boulder that has rolled down the hillside.

The next 3 miles of trail requires the most maintenance, but is also my favorite section. It is mostly steep slopes and heavily wooded with lots of water. There is almost always a rocky area or a wet spot that needs attention or maybe a tree or three that need removing. This area also has a lot of furry and feathered creatures both large and small.

From here to the pass the trail is above treeline and the views are really great. There is a large rockslide that crosses the trail here that needs continous attention to keep it open but the rest is clear. Depending on the winter weather, the last mile may be dry, very wet, or covered with snow that may last through July.

I am retired and do this maintenance by myself. I spend 3 to 6 days per month during the summer just getting away to the mountains which is why I live in Colorado.

John Watt, Fruita, CO

Volunteer Needed!!!

John had a heart attack in early May which precludes his maintaining this section for this summer. Would like someone to pull his maintenance on this section, possibly over the 4th of July weekend. Contact Merle McDonald, AAT coordinator at 719-599-4258.

AAT Section 39.2
Rolling Mountain to Bolam Pass
Adopter: Lynn Mattingly, Jamestown, CO

I was first introduced to The Colorado Trail by signing on to a 1987 trail crew working in Guller Gulch. Each year since, I have worked and hiked on various sections of the Trail. There is a proprietary attitude one develops about the trail one helps create or improve. It has been wonderful to revisit sections of the trail I worked on in past years. I feel like the trail is mine in part. Adopting a section means extending that feeling over time - caring for a specific stretch of trail, addressing problems, preventing erosion long term so that The Colorado Trail can survive as an outdoor adventure for others.

The section of trail I have adopted is a ten mile stretch of incredible beauty, somewhat difficult to access in the San Juans west of Silverton. It is very wet and heavily trafficked by hikers, mountain bicyclists, and pack horses out of Durango. Cascade Falls tumbles over this trail as well as a bounty of springs. It will always require significant maintenance.

Last summer our first maintenance crew assembled. We each chipped in $25 to cover food for the three day four night crew. We drove in
I got my chance later in the year when I was invited to Gudy’s home to discuss the Adopt-A-Trail program. During the meeting I volunteered to adopt section # 40 which is located in the San Juan mountains, near where I first worked on the trail.

Although the trailhead is 375 miles from my home the trip is worth every mile... not only is it a beautiful drive but the trail section turned out to be more spectacular than I expected. With an average elevation of 11,000 feet there are breathtaking views in all directions. We have the La Platas to the south and with such dominant peaks as Lizard Head, Mt. Wilson and El Diente to the north, the views are truly awe inspiring. We also have an abundance of flower and fauna and fresh water springs that are truly “Pure Rocky Mountain Spring Water”.

The main problems we encounter on the trail are no different than the typical; downed trees, rock slides, mud slides, water erosion, overgrown vegetation, water bar repair, cairn repair, and the dreaded domestic sheep herds that foul our fresh water springs and in general, make a total mess of the trail! But this is

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what it's all about and the
dedicated crew I have been
blessed with take it all in stride.

I am very proud of my
trail crew, not only have they
stayed with me for 7 years, they
bring their sons, who often
bring a friend.

On a more personal
note, I would like to make
mention of one particular
friendship I developed during
that first summer in 1987. Gudy
had brought along a house guest
whom I befriended during the
course of our work week on the
trail. Gudy's house guest was 15
year old Gabriele Seffert from
Germany, who has since
become an extended member of
my family.

Gabriele moved from
Germany to Colorado in July of
1993 and lived with my wife
and me for six months while
establishing herself in the
Denver area. She now has a
very good job, a nice apartment,
her own car a wealth of new
friends and a permanent place
in the Wentling family.

Oh yes, Gabriele
volunteered to help us on the
trail this past summer

*Malcolm Wentling, Aurora*
Summit County/Colorado Trail Scores #1 in Go-Colorado Grant Proposal

The Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the State Parks Lottery revenue, totaling $1,150,000 was given out in trails grants (matching funds) to trail applications. A total of 96 applications were submitted for a total request of $3.7 million. Summit County and the Dillon Ranger District joined forces and made the application on behalf of the Forest District and the Colorado Trail Foundation for $4,500. This request ranked #1 over all the other applications.

Of the grant received, $1,500 will be used by the Colorado Trail Foundation to field three trail crews to build the last remaining three miles to complete the Swan River re-route. (This section of new trail has been previously been blocked by right-of-way problems that have just recently been cleared) The Dillon District will use the other funds to enlarge the Gold Hill trailhead parking lot and to install directional/educational signs in a number of key areas in the district.

The Colorado Trail has proven its ability to build an excellent trail with a minimum of cost. This project was popular with the State Trails Committee as well as the Go-Colorado Board. The CT and its supporters wish to thank Scott Hobson with the Summit County Planning Department for his efforts on behalf of the Colorado Trail for writing the successful grant application as well as making the oral presentation.

Scott Hobson was also responsible for working with Copper Mountain Ski Area and the proposed hiking and bike trail through the ski area, paralleling the access road. This hard topped surface will enable CT hikers to walk/bike on a trail instead of using the blacktop road. It is one more success story of getting the CT o off of motorized conflicts. Thanks Scott, for your hard work.

As a result of this grant the Colorado Trail Foundation established two additional trail crews for this summer to undertake this work. The dates are July 2/9 with Joe Slack as leader (Crew 18, Horseshoe Gulch 1) and July 23/30 with Phil Smith as leader (Crew 19, Horseshoe Gulch 2) (All other crews are full as of press time) The work will be about 6 miles NE of Breckenridge. It will consist of cutting tread from the head of Horseshoe Gulch due west to the Blue River opposite the Gold Hill trailhead. This will get the CT o off of the last 2.5 miles of Tiger Road and one mile of hwy 9, a great improvement! The camp site will be a (almost) drive-in. The last half mile will require high clearance vehicle. You can sign up for these crews by calling trail crew registrar Jon Greeneiesen at 303-688-2299. Do it now! they will fill rapidly.

In addition to the two new crews listed above the Rocky Point crew (#13) will be relocated to Horseshoe Gulch in its scheduled time frame (Aug 13-20). Then a formal ribbon cutting is planned for the Swan River Re-route on Saturday, Aug 27, 1994, as another part of our 20th Year Celebration.

Volunteer Wanted

The Colorado Trail Foundation is looking for a volunteer to take over the editing of Tread Lines, our quarterly newsletter. It is publish in February, May, August and November. It usually consists of between 16 and 32 pages. We would like a person who enjoys graphics and editing. New ideas are welcome. This is an opportunity to try your hand at communications and publishing. Interested persons should contact Gudy Gaskill at 303-526-0809.

Tread Lines
Join the Live,
Learn and Have
Fun Week
Geology of the San
Juan Mountains

Camp for a week on the
most scenic stretch of The
Colorado Trail. And while your
body soaks in the beauty of the
surroundings, the mind is alive
and revitalized with a dynamic
professor of geology from
Western State College in
Gunnison. The spirit is
enlightened with the blue azure
sky, the white billow afternoon
clouds and the energetic
comradeship of other outdoor
lovers like yourself. Dr. Bruce
Bartleson is a dynamo when it
comes to making a topic
fascinating and intriguing. Dr.
John Sowell, who will also be
in camp is the head of the Dept
of Biology at WSC and there
will be informal talks on the
flora and fauna of the
mystical San Juans. Gudy
Gaskill will manage the camp
and cook for the group.
Bountiful nutritious meals are
guaranteed! Don’t miss this
week. College credit is
optional. Limited to 15
participants.

Date: July 17/23, 1994

Highlights: Five days of hiking
and instruction and on
Wednesday a day excursion to
Mesa Verde National Park.
Cost $290 includes all costs
including tuition.
Contact: John Sowell, Biology
Dept. WSC, Gunnison CO
81231
Phone 303-943-2146
or 303-641-2146
(Internet)
jsowell@wsc.colorado.edu

Gunnison Spur of
The Colorado Trail
Receives Grant

The Colorado Trail
Foundation in conjunction with
the High Riders Motorcycle
club and the Taylor Cebolla
Ranger District made an
application for funds to build a
bridge across the Taylor River
through the off-highway vehicle
grants that come from a
combination of lottery funds,
OHV registrations funds and
Go-Colorado funds. The grant
received is in the amount of
$13,500 and is to be used for a
70 foot span bridge across the
Taylor River north of Taylor
Reservoir.

The Colorado Trail
Foundation was pleased to learn
that the grant ranked seventh in
points among 43 applications.
Gudy Gaskill mad the
application and presented it to
the Off Road Vehicle
Committee. The grant will
make it possible to complete the
Gunnison Spur of The Colorado
Trail. This summer
approximately 8 miles of new
trail will be built between the
Leadville District, the Gunnison
District and the Colorado Trail
Foundation. This particular part
of the trail, north of Taylor
reservoir and heading over Lake
Ann Pass to Winfield, will also
be the route of the Continental
Divide Trail as well as the
Great Discovery Trail. This is
an important piece of trail and
with the bridge intact, will
complete the distance between
Leadville and Gunnison. In
1995 there will be pieces of the
trail that will have to be
reworked due to non-use of the
trail since it has been built, as
well as a couple of miles that
need to be taken off of a gravel
road. The Gunnison Spur,
unlike the main Colorado Trail,
uses short sections of motorized
roads as well as non motorized
trails.

Colorado Magazine
a new publication extoling the
vices of Colorado will reach
the newstands about June 1,
1994. Its lead article will be
The Colorado Trail. Watch
for it!
The Colorado Trail Store
Send Orders to
The Colorado Trail Foundation
P.O. Box 260876
Lakewood, CO 80226-0876

The Colorado Trail  The Official Guide Book  By Randy Jacobs
(240 pages, paperback, 5x8 format)  15.50

Along the Colorado Trail, by John Fielder and M. John Fayhee
100 color photographs, 128 pages, 9"x12" format, Hardcover,
Softcover,  22.00

Day Hikes on the Colorado Trail  By Jan Robertson
(48 pages, 35 color photos 4 x 9 format)  6.25

Topographic water-proof maps  (11"x17")
Full set: 29 maps, Denver to Durango  20.00
Northeast set 16 maps, Denver to Marshall Pass  12.00
Southwest set 13 maps, Marshall Pass to Durango  12.00

Note Cards, assorted designs by Jerry Albright  4.00

Christmas Cards, assorted designs  4.00

CT-Shirts:  CT map design, short sleeved
50/50: white  S  M  L  XL
cool green  M  L  XL
light blue  L  XL
100% cotton: aqua  M  L  XL
raspberry  S  M  L
white  S  L  XL  8.00

Official Colorado Trail Souvenirs with CT Logo

Patch  2.75
Pin  2.25
Trail Sign  1.25

All Prices are listed postpaid.
Colorado residents add 4.3% tax

Subtotal
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Yes! I would like to support the Colorado Trail.

We make a life by what we give.
We make a living by what we get.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a Colorado-based 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

The Foundation invites you to join in making The Colorado Trail, an educational and recreational reality...