President's Corner

by Gudy Gaskill

What a summer this has been! Each crew held many surprises, from relocations, to places to camp, to amount of work needed as a result of the snowpack overload.

It all started out back in June with Larry's and Bill's first two crews. It seems that we weren't able to get the immediate rights-of-way through some private lands in Breckenridge, so their crews had to be relocated. Then the problem there was the deep snow! Although they moved over to the Gold Hill Trailhead, and the second week to the Guller Creek Trail, both crews found themselves literally shoveling the snow off the trail ahead of them in order for it to dry

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Tread Lines Summer 1995

1995 CT Trail Crew Reunion
Saturday Sept. 16th
4:00 p.m. to dusk
Mount Vernon Country Club picnic grounds
Lookout Mountain

Potluck--bring a dish for 4 to 6 and eating utensils. Beer and soft drinks will be on hand. Enjoy horseshoes, volleyball, tennis, and socializing. View video of part of The Colorado Trail. A new slide show will also be shown to those who are interested.

To get to Mount Vernon Country Club picnic grounds, from Denver, take I-70 West to exit 254 (Buffalo herd exit). Go north 1/2 mile (pass under Mount Vernon Country Club sign) and take the first gravel road on the left after the sign to the picnic grounds. See you there! You all did a great job this summer. THANKS!

New construction on Indian Trail Ridge. The LaPlatas are in the background.
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enough to work on. In spite of the hardship, both crews accomplished much needed repair.

Crew #3 was Irene’s reunion crew; they were able to get a LOT of work done around Rainbow Lake and out of the shaded areas. Both CMC and CTF Treks covered the area a couple of weeks later and were most grateful for all of the cut brush, cleaned trail, and rock removal. It was a joy to walk the trail! Do come back next summer as the work continues around the lake and up the north side of Cottonwood Creek. We need you again!

Then came crew #4 at Baldy Ridge. I kept telling the trekkers that we had a BAD stretch of trail to do that day and to save their feet as this stretch was solid loose rocks, thrown up by motorcycle wheels. Lo and behold, when we arrived at that point, the trail was a smooth ribbon of silk! Phil Smith’s crew had just been there the week before and had created a miracle on the CT! We loved it, and it saved a bunch of weary feet.

We missed Gene Cash’s crew at Frenchman’s Creek. We were there on Friday, and they arrived on Saturday. That large boggy area must have been a stubborn project. Hard, wet and boggy, and difficult to keep shoes dry when we went through. I know that it was a job well done, and so necessary.

Phil Smith’s second crew came back to work on Razor Ridge, a continuation of last year’s project. Once again, it was in a vehicle-used area and a rough part of the trail to eliminate all of the exposed rocks. It’s a slow-going project and a substitute for mining rocks. Dig one out and another grows in its place! How we do pamper our feet when those sections get renovated by our wonderful volunteers. It makes a difference in the pleasure of walking and riding The Colorado Trail.

The two backpack crews to Cascade Creek had a BIG shift when the horses couldn’t get into the camp area due to long deep snow drifts across the trail. Remember, these crews were scheduled from the 15th to the 29th of July! Ted LaMay worked with Harriet Patton’s and Merle’s crews to relocate the crews in Junction Creek. Harriet’s crew worked close to “Gudy’s Rest,” and Merle’s crew worked in the Fassbinder area. It was a disappointment not to be able to backpack in to the Cascade Creek area and enjoy the superlative vistas. Much work was needed at both of the other sites, so it was a “happy” alternative.

The Grindstone crews led by Joe Slack and Merle (his third this year) were a huge success. Work was accomplished where it should have been accomplished and was almost finished. It is rumored that the Animas District is looking for four crews next.
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summer (to finish up this summer’s work), and that it is anticipated that the Leadville District will need four or more crews, the Taylor District will need four or five, and the list keeps going. Ted LaMay, Merle, and the Rio Grande nences of the reshuffling. You’re all great sports, hard workers, and great humorists. This summer was a pleasure.

We still have a couple of bridges out. The Taylor River bridge will be unloaded in September and will be ready for installation next summer. The private vehicle bridge over Clear Creek is still out, and we are working with the owner of the property to have it replaced. Many users came through the private property, most were courteous enough to ask permission to cross over the private bridge, a few people trespassed, and some even tried to cross the high flowing river! To those of you who asked, thanks. The owners and managers were extremely generous and kind. We appreciate the polite users and hope that there are very few trespassers that would wear the welcome thin. YOU can help by signing up for the crew that will replace the bridge next summer. Write the CTF and we’ll put you on the database for bridge work.

John and Jane Wilson,

Forest recreational staffer (Greg Thompson) are meeting at Coney Point to look over the steepness of the grade in September. All of these preliminary examinations are needed before a need for crews is established.

Well, we certainly met some GREAT volunteers this summer, who were willing to overlook some of the inconve-

Unidentified Colorado Trail user passing a volunteer crew removing the lower berm along Indian Trail Ridge northwest of Durango. Note that the LaPlata Mountains still have considerable snow cover in mid-August.

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consummate the purchase of the Wilson cabin in Lake City. For more information about the cabin and how you can use it (until we start our educational sessions), please call (303) 526-0809. That used to be Gudy’s private number, but the CTF has picked up the tab and we use it exclusively for CTF business. Either Gudy or Charlotte Briber man the phone. We could use extra volunteers. The requirement is that you must be completely familiar with the CT and how the Foundation works (and all of its innermost secrets). Charlotte has walked the whole trail, and I know that there is a growing number of hikers in the Denver area who have completed the trail also. Paul Bertau reports a record number of users asking for their certificates or completion plaques. If you don’t know how to get yours, call the above number!

The CTF and the CMC treks went well in spite of the early weeks of hip-deep snow. Everyone covered many miles, and the later weeks were rewarded with fields and fields of wonderland wildflowers. The snow-covered or blotched peaks and the flowers were a sight to see.

We had Jan and Dan Wolfe from Albuquerque stationed at Marshall Pass for two weeks interviewing trail users. At this writing they are still out, and we’ll report their findings with the next Tread Lines. If the information is vital, we will consider having three couples stay out for two weeks next summer at different locations on the trail, but at the same time.

The botony and geology classes were a huge success. If you missed them, you missed a treat. Great teachers, great country, beautiful scenery, and glorious days. (We think that the food was super too!) Come join us next summer.

The week of peak climbers had a lot of snow but were still able to get to the top of a few 14,000-foot peaks. Steve and Mona are now in Russia doing some serious climbing. Merle is on his way to climb a great route up Mt. Rainier, and Dave and Gudy are off for some strenuous backpacking in Alaska.

Hey! Don’t forget that we have another trail crew coming up. The dates are September 15 and 16 at the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. Eastern Mountain Sports is sponsoring the weekend and purchasing the food. It’s a miserable boggy area that needs to be fixed. We’d love to see some of you that couldn’t get on our crews this summer. Call Arthur Rankin, leader, at 303-393-7554. Great spot, and it should be golden aspen time.

We will be hiking with Elizabeth Estelle, Rocky Mountain Region Forester, on Friday, October 20, from Kenosha Pass to the Beaver Ponds. All districts will get an invitation, and the Foundation will host a BBQ at the Beaver Ponds. It’s a chance to talk to all the district representatives about any differences on the trail. If you would like to attend (and contribute vocally), please let Gudy know. Pray for an Indian summer!

Watch for our new poster/map and its availability in this issue. It looks great, and all of the sections as well as all of the spurs are on the map. It gives you the whole picture of all of the workings of the last 20 years. Great for the wall and to see what you’ve completed. Our T-shirt sales have been brisk since we have added the sections, miles, and elevations on the back side.

Again, it’s been a productive summer with a few changes, but all that were needed. All of the leaders hope to see as many of you as can come to the reunion on the 16th of September. SEE YOU THERE.

A Trail User Expresses Appreciation

August 14, 1995
Colorado Trail Foundation
548 Pine Song Trail
Golden, CO 80401

My friend, John Patton, and I just completed the section of The Colorado Trail from Copper Mountain to Buena Vista. We had such a wonderful experience that we wanted to make this donation of $100 to your efforts to continue to maintain the trail.

Sincerely,
James W. McElvany
Los Angeles, CA
CREW #1195
Grindstone 1
29 Jul-5 Aug 1995

LDR: Joe Slack
CO-LDR: Herschel Smith
USFS COORDINATORS:
Gary Mason, Christy LaDue,
and Ted LaMay.

PROJECT: Rework trail with water bars, tread work, and reduction of grade on Indian Trail Ridge south of the intersection of The Colorado Trail and Grindstone Trail.

CREW MEMBERS:
Adrienne Ball, Steve Cearley, Carol Clapp,
Cynthia Clapp, Steve Tenneson, Lois Cochran,
Kitty Cruser, Steve Cruser, Joyce Estep, Ray Estep,
Jamie Estep, Richard Greve, Harry Hance, Jason Klecker,
Lawrence Mack, Jim McIntosh, LaVern Nelson,
Mike Robinson, Joseph Slack, Herschel Smith,
Sean Tangeman, James Tate, & Dan Wolfe.

New tread was routed around a badly eroded part of old trail. This included moving a signpost, re-installing another, and moving three tree-mounted signs showing both direction and distances. The lower edge berm was removed from about 1/2 mile of old tread, thereby allowing better tread drainage. The crew built a second section of tread to bypass eroded tread that was still under snow. They reworked a total of about a mile of new and old tread plus put in 6 water bars. Two members went northward to cut many, many downed trees lying across the trail. Five large trees were removed from The Colorado Trail between our camp and work site.

Sean, Mike, and Jamie built a small dam in the nearby creek and with 3 plastic tubes furnished running water to fill dishwater buckets and shower bags.

Nightly entertainment was from Steve Cearley's large telescope for star gazing on the cloudless nights. His singing and guitar music beside the campfire made the evening very pleasant.

The altitude affected two men, but lower elevation did the corrective work. Another man accompanying one of the altitude victims developed a more serious problem while waiting in Durango to return to camp. So he wouldn't have to return to camp, we made arrangements to get his car to him from camp so he could go to Denver for an operation that went perfectly. He was again mobile after about 3 days.

For the entire week--excellent weather conditions. Just a few sprinkles on a couple days and a very short, light shower one night.
“Friends” don’t get any better than this!

July 5, 1995

The Colorado Trail Foundation
548 Pine Song Trail
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Mrs. Gaskill,

Enclosed is my check for $10,000 to the Colorado Trail Foundation. This is in appreciation for all the hard work by you and so many other volunteers for building and maintaining The Colorado Trail.

Sincerely,
John P. and Jane K. Wilson
Dallas, Texas

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Memorial Bench Placement Dedicated to Leonard John Southwell

Two resting areas are the result of an Eagle Scout service project on The Colorado Trail—and a memorial to the Eagle candidate’s brother. The first bench was placed where the single track of The Colorado Trail begins. The second bench was placed one mile ahead at the second resting point, called “Lenny’s Rest.” The project was completed on May 13, 1995, with the help of thirty—three loyal Boy Scouts and family. On the day of the project, about fifteen scouts carried the 800-pound bench up the first mile of The Colorado Trail. This bench was constructed from a tree log two feet in diameter. The following scouts and adults helped with the project: George Southwell, Linda Southwell, Lenny Southwell (in spirit), Andrew Southwell, John Southwell, Anita Stout, Steve Sehnert, Ed Barthlome, Jim Blair, Torin Blair, Reed Marquand, Cameron Dirks, Scott Adams, Jason McGinnis, Bob Bushman, Charlie Bushman, Bob Seigel, Steve Seigel, Jim Sealy, Jason Sealy (in spirit), John Lehnert, Jim McKinnis, Jesse Loar, Mike Stolp, Brian Rohrback, Buzz Soard, Evan Soard, Eric Norwood, Chris Norwood, Steve Frank, Dan Frank, Peter Jacobsen, and Russ Rainey. Once the bench reached “Lenny’s Rest,” everyone helped to install it. This project was quite an accomplishment and success.

Unfortunately, a couple weeks after the installation, someone-- “Bob” --carved his name in the first bench. The damage has been corrected; it is to be hoped that this kind of incident will not occur again in the future. “It seems obvious now that some people only perceive it as a piece of wood to destroy, but I view it as a meaningful object to care for for the rest of my life,” says Eagle Scout Andrew Southwell.

Completed the whole Colorado Trail?
The CTF issues Certificates of Completion upon request. Send your clearly printed name, address and phone number along with your date of completion and mode of travel (hike, bike, or horseback) to the CTF address listed on page 2.
The Colorado Trail Store

All proceeds provide important support for The Colorado Trail

Send Orders to
The Colorado Trail Foundation
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Lakewood, CO 80226-0876

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Full set: 29 maps, Denver to Durango 20.00
Northeast set: 16 maps, Denver to Marshall Pass 12.00
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CT Note Cards, assorted designs by Jerry Albright 4.00

CT T-Shirts New Design, CT map on front, Trail segment descriptions including length and elevation gain are printed on the back, short-sleeved.
100% Cotton
Burgundy L XL 12.00
Jade green L XL 12.00
light blue L XL 12.00

There still a few old style 100% cotton T-shirts left in white, small size only.
white S 8.00

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

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So Much to be Done!

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

*Winston Churchill*

Yes! I would like to support the Colorado Trail . . . Please accept my annual contribution to the Colorado Trail Foundation as a “Friend of the Colorado Trail.”

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**Benefits for Friends of the Colorado Trail include:**
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Periodic Discounts
- Discounts on CT Publications
- CT Trek Invite
- Information on CT functions, meetings and crews

___ I would like to work on a trail crew. Please send information.

___ I would like to adopt a section of the trail to maintain.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State __________ Zip ___________

*The Colorado Trail Foundation is a Colorado Based 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.*

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