



# treadlines

NEWS FROM THE COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Colorado Trail  
Foundation

FALL 2013

## CREW VOLUNTEER *has a lucky feeling*



To paraphrase an old saying, if you're lucky enough to be on The Colorado Trail, then you're lucky enough. A lot of trail maintenance volunteers feel that way, too. Each summer, an army of people generously donate their time to dig water drainages and move rocks to keep the Trail in good condition. Some come from out of state on volunteer vacations, looking for an inexpensive way to spend a week in Colorado's beautiful mountain scenery, and are willing to trade a little sweat equity to do it.

This summer, one volunteer was extra lucky. **Jean Mortensen's** workplace actually paid her to work on The Colorado Trail. Jean applied to the new Epic Volunteer program through Vail Resorts' Corporate Stewardship Division. A committee reviewed applications from employees throughout the company (about 15,000 employees) and chose 21 Epic Volunteers to be given five paid days away from their jobs to volunteer with various charities benefiting youth or the environment, reflecting one of Vail Resorts' core values: Do good and serve others. the company (about 15,000 employees) and chose 21 Epic Volunteers to be given five paid days away from their jobs to volunteer with various charities benefiting youth or the environment, reflecting one of Vail Resorts' core values: Do good and serve others.

For the past four summers, Jean has used half of her vacation time working on the Trail and the other half hiking segments of the Trail. She says she enjoys helping

other hikers, bikers, and equestrians have a more pleasant experience. This summer, thanks to the Epic Volunteer program, Jean was able to use all of her vacation time for ... vacation! So what did she do on vacation? Why, hiked more segments of the CT, of course.

Jean says that getting five paid days away from work to do the things she most enjoys is like having your cake and eating it, too ... with ice cream on top.

That's pretty lucky. *(To learn more about this super-volunteer, Aimée O'Malley, CTF Director of Administrative Operations, asked Jean a few questions about her experiences on the Trail.)*

### How did you become involved with the CTF?

*Having reached middle age, I wanted to try backpacking again, just to see if I could still do it and enjoy the journey. It was an activity I had enjoyed in my youth, but had not participated in for nearly three decades. So I looked for good backpacking opportunities and figured a trail that ran all the way from Denver to Durango should offer plenty of opportunities. To become more familiar with what to expect on the Trail, I signed up for the women's weekend maintenance crew in 2009. I've been hooked on hiking and maintaining the Trail ever since.*

### What do you value most about the CT?

*It'll probably sound corny, but my involvement with the CT has changed my life. Walking the Trail has given me confidence in my physical abilities, encouraging me to stretch myself to accomplish more than I thought I could do. I never expected I could walk 17 miles in a day until I did Segment 1 as a solo day hike. I still have a long way to go to Durango, but just give me time (and maybe some new knees). Working on the trail crews has given me a chance to make new friends, some of whom have become hiking partners, some of whom I really look forward to seeing again on future crews. The more I do crews, the more happy reunions.*



*Tread Lines* is the newsletter of The Colorado Trail Foundation. It is published twice a year.

The Colorado Trail® is 567 miles long in the Rocky Mountains between Denver and Durango. It has been described as one of the best trails anywhere, one of the most scenic and among the best maintained. The Trail is a favorite of enthusiasts who hike, mountain bike and ride horseback.

The Colorado Trail Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation funded almost entirely by private sector individuals and companies. Our mission is to keep The Colorado Trail in good condition, maintaining and improving it with the help of many volunteers. We recruit and train volunteers, provide leadership, organize The Colorado Trail ("CT") work crews, supply and support the crews, and manage the Adopt-A-Trail program to accomplish annual maintenance on the entire Trail. We also conduct week-long supported treks on the CT and distribute information about The Colorado Trail and Trail Crews. We work in cooperation with public agencies and acknowledge great support from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Region. Donations are needed, much appreciated and tax deductible Non-profit ID #84-1057336.

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Update



## Hiking the 'Spectacular' Collegiate West.

On July 27, I took off from Twin Lakes to hike the newest part of The Colorado Trail, the 80-mile Collegiate West route. Joining me were CTF

Board Chairman **Steve Staley**, Board Members **Tim Burroughs** and **Dan Cohen**, and Trail supporters **Bruce Peterson** and **Brian Jackson**. In a word, our impression at the end of our trek a week later near Monarch Pass was "spectacular!"

This optional route to the existing 80 miles on the east side of the Collegiate Range is featured in the 5th Edition of The Colorado Trail Databook as well as the most current Map Book and Collegiate Loop Map Book put together by professional surveyor and CTF Board Member **Jerry Brown**. (All of these guides are available at the online CT Store, [shop.ColoradoTrail.org](http://shop.ColoradoTrail.org).) The new route is already signed thanks to volunteer **Loren Woods**, who installed scores of CT confidence markers and added more Continental Divide Trail markers where needed. The CT and CDT run concurrent over the 80-mile stretch.

The exact length of the Collegiate West route is 82.1 miles and the vertical gain is 18,478 feet. It stays higher, and we think it is harder, than the Collegiate East, which is 78.1 miles and involves 17,791 feet of climbing.

Traveling south on the Collegiate West from Twin Lakes, hikers encounter a very stout first day as they ascend Hope Pass. Being aware of the climb of some 3,600 feet and the steep descent afterward, we decided to "slack pack" the first day. We camped at Winfield, about 15 trail miles south of Twin Lakes, the night before and shuttled back to the trailhead, leaving much of our camping gear behind and hiking only with water, lunch, and rain and emergency gear. The hike to the pass lived up to its reputation, and all agreed that Staley's "slack pack" suggestion was a good call.

Beyond Hope Pass we encountered trail sections greatly improved over several years of effort to create single-track to replace road miles. Bravo! Excellent new trail has been constructed by several volunteer groups, including the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (succeeded by the Continental Divide Trail Coalition), Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and The Colorado Trail Foundation.

For example, at the old ghost town of Winfield, a new footbridge takes the trail off the road and above the valley floor. When we came to another smaller creek crossing not much farther on, materials waited for yet another major bridge. These rerouted sections (now 100% complete) are a joy to walk and we marveled at the high-quality construction

and durability of the new tread. Kudos to all the volunteers, groups and U.S. Forest personnel involved in these efforts. Great work. The reroute work ends (for now) where the climb to Lake Ann Pass begins. Below the trail, Lake Ann is a jewel.

After another stout climb, we dropped over the pass to the junction with the Timberline Motorcycle Trail, a lengthy section of the Collegiate West where additional rerouting and trail-enhancement work is planned. Eventually, this entire section will be moved off the motor trails and roads.

Our backpacking trip took seven days. Steady rain soaked us early and late in the trip, making our sunny days even more enjoyable. Although we had to dig deep to push ourselves over many of the demanding climbs, we reveled at the expansive views from the ridgelines.

We eventually made it to our destination, Monarch Pass, and pigged out on goodies from the souvenir shop. Staley and Cohen continued on to hike the "Classic 80" and complete the Collegiate Loop, while the rest of us called it a day and headed back to the Denver area.

In contrast to the Collegiate East, which is generally below timberline – especially the southern sections, which are almost a sage and pinon pine desert – the Collegiate West is higher, cooler, and at least this time, wetter. Many will find the West route more scenic, with the Collegiate's many fourteeners rising in the distance. In any case, it's a different experience for trail users than the East route.

We think combining the East and West routes into the 160-mile Collegiate Loop will prove popular with trail travelers, who will appreciate not having to shuttle between starting and ending points. All of these factors should make the new route not only a destination of its own, but one of the favorite sections of the entire trail.

*See you on the Trail!*



## Picture this!

## WE'RE ON INSTAGRAM!

The online photo-sharing and social networking site has been added to The Colorado Trail Foundation's social media outreach efforts. It's a place for Trail users to share their photos and help build interest and awareness in the Trail.

Be sure to check it out at [Instagram.com/colorado\\_trail](https://www.instagram.com/colorado_trail), post a photo, and become a follower.

- CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

**If you could offer advice to future trail users, what would it be?**

*Just get out there and do it. Don't wait; do it now. There's no right or wrong way to enjoy the Trail, so do it your way. A little at a time, or the whole thing; ride it, bike it, run it, or walk it. But don't let the opportunity pass you by.*

**Favorite trail maintenance tool (Pulaski, McLeod, rock bar, etc.)?**

*I favor the Pulaski, as I think it's the most versatile, and lighter than a pick mattock. All the tools, though, have their purposes and their rightful place.*

**The most memorable meal on a trail crew?**

*Smoked salmon on one of Cindy Johnson's crews. Cindy has an amazing ability to find tasty menu choices and still remain within her budget.*

**When you look back on the trail crews you've done, what are some of the highlights or your favorite memories?**

*I'm really proud of the bridges and new trail tread we've put in on the Winfield area reroute for the Collegiate West 80. I've worked three crews in that valley, and while scratching out new trail tread from the virgin forest is probably the hardest work I've done, the scenery was jaw-dropping spectacular. It's very rewarding to be a part of making a more pleasant backcountry experience for many, many trail users for decades to come.*

This past season's crew held a special moment on our final day. We had returned to camp after a typically exhausting day of carrying rocks and hauling dirt, so I took a few moments to just sit in my camp chair beneath my tent's awning and enjoy a cold beer from my cooler. The sun was shining pleasantly on its way toward setting, the view of the mountain peak directly opposite my tent door was stunning (as the Sawatch Range tends to be), a light breeze cooled the sweat from the back of my neck, and Clear Creek babbled gently in the distance. Fatigue at the end of the week took that form of "good tired" that you feel after accomplishing something demanding but important. And I realized right then that if I could ever freeze time, that moment of utter contentment was one worth keeping. Everything felt right with the world and I didn't want that feeling to end.



# TREKS DRAW MORE THAN 100 Hikers



From fires to frost to fractures, the 2013 trekking season had a little bit of everything, according to **Jeanne and Chris Szczech** of Colorado Mountain Expeditions, who run The Colorado Trail trekking program.

"Over the course of nine weeks on The Colorado Trail this summer we hiked over 612 miles and climbed 75,000 feet!" Chris reported. "We were joined by 106 hikers representing 20 states and Canada."

More than half of the trekkers were from Colorado, followed by good numbers from California, Texas and Arizona. The rest of the country was also represented, with folks coming from all along the Eastern Seaboard, the South and the Pacific Northwest.

"It was a perfect season with good early season trail conditions – no snow blockages or major treefalls," Chris said. "The Colorado Trail was, as always, superbly well maintained by the adopters and trail crews."

In early July it appeared that wildfires might force a change in hiking plans, Chris said, "but we managed to be at least one day ahead of the fires all summer long."

"Late in the season on Section 6 we got an early taste of fall," he said. "The week began wet and chilly. We even had frost! Fortunately, the sun returned to us by week's end."

The tough trekker award goes to the woman from Arizona who broke her wrist on Monday, was X-rayed on Tuesday, and still hiked the rest of the week with the group," Chris said.

"Thanks to all the great folks who joined us this summer," he added. "We'll be posting the 2014 schedule in early November and taking reservations beginning December 1. *Happy trails!*"

# 'Shuttler' SHUFFLES USERS TO & FROM TRAIL

Some call them "trail angels." Later, many call them "friends." They're a group of volunteers who shuttle hikers and cyclists from all over the country and around the world to and from The Colorado Trail. Sometimes they even serve as hosts.

**Mychele Smith, of Littleton, is one of them. Here are excerpts from her "shuttler" journal on her active – and interesting – summer:**

**June 22 – Eric, Wichita, Kan.** – Picked him up downtown and dropped off him and his bike at the start of Segment 3 due to fire closures on Segments 1 and 2. He said he planned to do the Kokopelli Trail after finishing the CT.

**June 24 – Chris, Reston, Va.** – Picked him up at Denver International Airport and dropped him off at start of Segment 1.

**July 4 – Steve, Rosarita, Calif.** – Picked him up at Amtrak Station and he spent the night at our home. Dropped him off at Segment 1 on July 5. Sent me a follow up e-mail, saying it took him 29 days to complete the Trail.

**July 5 – Jed and Nichola, Connecticut** – Took shuttle to our house from the airport and spent the night. Dropped them off at Segment 1 on July 6.

**July 7 – Steve Jacobssen, Stockholm, Sweden** – Picked him up at light-rail stop and took him directly to the Trail. He gave me a hand-painted horse as a thank-you.

**July 12 – Jed and Nichola, Connecticut** – They took the bus back to Denver from Frisco and spent the night with us. Took them to the airport the next day.

**July 12 – Wendy and husband, Texas** – Took them to the Trail and kept their car at our place. Wendy plans to hike to Breckenridge and then return to pick up the car. Her husband planned to thru-hike.

**July 13 – Ed Hyatt, Newcastle, England** – Picked him up at light-rail stop and he spent the day with us. We went to the movie, "White House Down," and had pizza. Dropped him off at Segment 1 on July 14. He plans on returning to our home after his hike to retrieve some belongings.

**July 16 – Wendy and husband, Texas** – Contacted me at 9 a.m. and told me that Wendy couldn't continue her hike due to blisters. Picked them up after work from Segment 3.

**July 29 – Wayne, Cleveland, Ohio** – Picked him up at the Hampton Inn on C-470 and dropped him off at Segment 1. He plans on spending 21 days on the trail.

**August 25 – Ed Hyatt, Newcastle, England** – Picked him up at a hotel near the airport. He retrieved his belongings and spent three nights with us before returning home.

*(The CTF maintains a list of volunteer shuttle drivers that it supplies to Trail users on request. If you would like to add your name to the list, contact the office at [ctf@ColoradoTrail.org](mailto:ctf@ColoradoTrail.org).)*



## Scott Jaime SETS BLISTERING PACE



While the Colorado Trail Foundation doesn't recognize Trail speed records – believing that slowing down and savoring every mile is important to having a great CT experience – it's hard to ignore Scott Jaime's accomplishment this summer.

In August, Scott, a 44-year-old ultra-runner from Highlands Ranch, Colo., set a new Fastest Known Time for completing the 486-mile Colorado Trail: 8 days, 7 hours, 40 minutes and 17 seconds. That beat the previous record set in July 2008 by Paul Pomeroy by more than 4½ hours.

That works out to about 60 miles a day, give or take a mile or two – four to five times what a typical thru-hiker covers in a day.

That kind of mileage didn't come without a cost.

"I am completely destroyed," Scott remarked on finishing his "hike" on Aug. 24. But that was the point, he says. "From the very beginning I wanted to define my limits and give this adventure every ounce of my being. There is no question in my mind I have defined my limits."

Scott didn't achieve his record without plenty of help from his support group, Team Fast Eddy. Scott's wife, Nicole, and 26 others helped pace him, feed him, tend to his aches and pains, and provide plenty of moral support along the way.

"I did not accomplish this alone," Scott says. "This was a complete team effort."

According to the website [FastestKnownTime.proboards.com](http://FastestKnownTime.proboards.com), which keeps records on these sorts of accomplishments across the country, the previous "supported" CT record by Pomeroy was 8 days, 12 hours, and 14 minutes. Both Scott and Paul covered the trail west to east, Durango to Denver.

The "unsupported" record, accomplished without the aid of a support crew, is held by Shawn Forry, who smashed the previous record of 14 days, 9 hours and 30 minutes, also held by Paul Pomeroy, by completing the trail in August 2012 in 10 days, 19 hours and 5 minutes. Amazing feats by any standard.

This wasn't Scott's first crack at the Trail. He also completed the CT in 2009 in 11 days, 12 hours and 37 minutes, that time traveling east to west. He wasn't going for any record, he says. "I simply wanted to finish and try to define my genetic potential."

He finished on his 40th birthday, averaging more than 40 miles a day. At the time, he says, "It was the toughest thing I had accomplished in my life."

Last year, *Runner's World* magazine quoted Scott on his first completion and why he loves the CT:

"The trail – in all its splendor, majesty and drama – is long enough to indoctrinate a soul to the natural world and leave behind the material one. I became one with the trail as it took me through the most scenic areas of the Rockies, the famed mineral belt, high above the old mining towns. Each day the trail welcomed me back with relentless climbs and asked me to redefine my limits. It's much bigger than I am; it forever shaped my character, and will continue to inspire me."

Fans of the Trail know exactly what he means.

## Adopters Update

As The Colorado Trail grows, so does the Trail Foundation's Adopt-a-Trail program.

With the addition of the Collegiate West 80, the number of Adopter sections increased by 12, bringing the total to 76. That's a lot of individuals and groups who serve as the CTF's front line in making sure the trail is passable for hikers, bikers and horse riders.



At summer's end, just one section, from San Luis Pass to West Mineral Creek in southwest Colorado, was unadopted, according to program coordinator Janet Farrar.

"The excitement from all involved in the new Adopter sections was truly contagious," said Janet, who reported hiking 42 miles of the "New 80" and is looking forward to doing the rest next summer.

"I am so proud when I think of all the water bars cleaned and rebuilt, the trees cut, the vegetation trimmed, the signs put up, the communications and reporting of trail concerns," she said.

Anyone interested in joining the list of potential adopters can contact Janet at [wildjc@juno.com](mailto:wildjc@juno.com).

## THE BEAUTY OF THE BEAST

**"What a majestic BEAST!"**

*That's mountain biker CJ Bohnen's assessment of The Colorado Trail.*

"I've lived in Colorado my whole life and I felt like I was touring through an exotic country for 80 percent of the trip," the Aspenite recently wrote the CTF. "This has brought my respect for the beauty of this state to a whole new level. Colorado is truly a place unmatched and unique in the way we can experience a 500-mile stretch of awesome. I am so proud to live here."

As for his thru-bike, "This was easily the most physically (and mentally at times) challenging thing I have ever done, but my gratitude and pride I have upon completion greatly outweighs the physical and mental adversity it put me through," he said.

**"In one word: adventure. Thank you."**

# CREWS WRAP UP ANOTHER SEASON ON THE TRAIL

*Another Colorado Trail crew season is in the books, with new trail built, old sections rebuilt and improved, memories recalled, and new memories made. Particular attention was paid to the new Collegiate West section of the trail.*



## ***A brief recap:***

CREW 0113, July 6-13, Middle Fork Arkansas River. Crew Leader **Glenn Kepler** and 22 crew members built 691 feet of new trail, including creating two switchbacks, opening six barrow pits to haul in mineral soil, removing about 20 tree stumps, and building two rock walls.

CREW 0213, July 13-20, **Bill Carpenter** and 22 crew members continued the work of Crew 0113, completing 850 feet of new trail.

CREW 0313, July 27-Aug. 3, Browns Creek. **John Lipe** and **Steve Stadler** led 21 crew members in rebuilding a CT access trail near the scenic Browns Creek Trailhead.

CREW 0413, Aug. 3-10, Winfield. **Tom Brooksher** and 17 crew members built a 25-foot bridge in a new section of the Collegiate West. They also topped 300 feet of rock turnpike with dirt, built 60 feet of new rock turnpike, including dirt topping, finished 160 feet of new bench cut trail that had been roughed out, and built 200 feet of new bench cut trail.

CREW 0513, Aug. 10-17, Winfield. **Cindy Johnson** and a crew of 23 put in 90 percent of a 40-foot bridge in the same area at Crew 0413. They also finished 15- and 60-foot turnpikes and built to completion another 200 feet of tread.

CREW 0713, Aug. 17-24, Tunnel Gulch. **Bill Carpenter** led a crew of 21 in completing nearly a mile of routine trail maintenance on a Collegiate West section above the ghost town of St. Elmo. They also improved two stream crossings and built 35 rolling grade dips and 30 check steps.

CREW 0813, Aug. 24-31, Tunnel Gulch. **Steve Stadler** and **John Lipe** and 16 crew members built a 60-foot boardwalk and 20-foot turnpike across a boggy area west of St. Elmo.

CREW 0913NOS, June 2-7, Cochetopa Hills. Crew leader **Jerry Brown** and 6 crew members flagged, designed drainage and surveyed 17 miles of planned reroute.

CREW 1013NOS, June 9-14, Cochetopa Hills. **Jerry Brown** led his team of 7 in flagging, designing drainage and surveying the final 15 miles of planned reroute.

CREW 1113NOS, June 2-7, Copper Mountain. **Kelley Gorham** and a group of 15 students from Daniel C. Oakes High School in Douglas County built nearly 1,700 feet of new trail for Summit County Parks. They also performed trail maintenance and drainage work on 1,860 feet of the CT from the Copper Mountain Trailhead to the first ski lift.

## **THE WEEKEND CREWS:**

CREW WE113, June 14-16, Rock Creek. **Loren Woods** led a crew of 19 in improving trail in South Park, including building 78 drainage features, realigning 225 feet of trail, and repairing a bridge.

CREW WE213, June 28-July 1, Kenosha Pass/Jefferson Creek. **Cindy Johnson** led a woman-only crew of 15 in making improvements to the trail near Kenosha Pass and Jefferson Creek, adding rolling dips and removing tree roots and rock.

CREW WE313, July 12-14; Wurts Ditch. **Paul Smith** led a crew of 24 in performing repairs on rocky trail in this area west of Tennessee Pass, adding water diversions and removing 5 large trees blocking or about to fall on the trail.

CREW WE413, July 26-28, Tennessee Pass. Crew leader **Paul Smith** and 20 crew members improved sections of the co-located CT and CDT above the historic site of Camp Hale, World War II home of the famous 10th Mountain Division, removing and replacing a rotten bridge.

## **A DONATION THAT'S OH, So Sweet**

Friends of the Trail **Pat Nagorka** and her daughter **Jennifer Nagorka** found a sweet way to contribute to the CT: They made strawberry jam. Pat wrote us earlier this year: "I just want you all to know how proud I am of my daughter! When she was here last summer, we made six batches of strawberry jam, which she took back to Dallas with her. I thought she was going to donate it to the school for a bake sale, give some away, etc. NO! She is notifying her mom's group that she has this jam and they can buy it and the money goes to The Colorado Trail!" The jam, about 30 jars, sold quickly.

In a thank-you note to the buyers, Jennifer wrote: "Thanks to all of you who bought jars of my mom's strawberry jam! Because of your generosity, I'm sending a check for more than \$200 to The Colorado Trail Foundation in her honor. She was really amazed folks would buy it and grateful for the donation." *The CTF is grateful as well.*



# WE'VE SEEN FIRE & WE'VE SEEN RAIN

Fire and rain. Colorado Trail users and supporters were detoured by both this year.

Early in the season, forest fires closed several segments of the Trail, forcing some users to postpone trips and others to reroute around the danger areas. Fortunately, none of the fires impacted the trail directly; the closures were due primarily to safety and smoke issues.

Segments 1 and 2 near Denver were closed as a precaution for several days in June by wildfires in the area. To the southwest, the massive West Fork Complex Fire, which burned tens of thousands of acres in the San Juan Mountains in June and early July, forced Trail users to reroute around Segments 21-23 and part of Segment 24. The Trail was totally open again on July 6.

During the closures Trail users were kept apprised of the situation through updates on The Colorado Trail Foundation website, Facebook page, and other social media sources.

Because the recommended reroute around the West Fork Complex Fire and the closed sections of the CT are both about 100 miles, those hikers, bikers and horse riders who completed the walk-around are still eligible for CT completion certificates.

In September, the rains and flooding that had a devastating impact on much of Colorado's Front Range touched the Trail as well. Again, fortunately, the CT apparently dodged major damage despite several days of steady downpours, according to reports from trail users.

The CTF's annual Friends Picnic on Sept. 14 had to be canceled, however, because of flooding at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood, site of the event. Some 225 friends and supporters were expected to attend the picnic, which has grown increasingly popular over the years.

## STILL A SONG *in Singer's Heart*

Completer **Carol Johnson** continues to sing the praises of The Colorado Trail.

"The Trail is still so deep in my heart that to this day tears come to my eyes when I remember the beauty, the freedom, the exultation of hiking the whole thing in 1994," she recently wrote to request that her name be added to the completers list now featured on the CTF website.

"It's one of the highest highlights of my life. I don't care what they put on my tombstone, but I WOULD like my name on the 'Completed the Trail' list!"

"I also worked on trail crews for a number of years. And one year I drove all the way from Michigan to an event to honor Trail founders," added the singer-songwriter from Grand Rapids, Mich. "I am the composer of a song 'The Colorado Trail,' which the CTF sold as a cassette for a time. I still sing it, and it's online from me personally if anybody wants it."

"Up, up and away! My spirit is with you."

*(You can contact Carol via [www.caroljohnsonmusic.com](http://www.caroljohnsonmusic.com).)*

## WE NEVER TIRE OF GETTING NOTES LIKE THESE

### *When you've hiked the best . . .*

"Due to wildfires south near the CT, I decided to instead walk north from Boulder into Wyoming on the Continental Divide Trail. Distance to Encampment, Wyo., was a little over 200 miles, so not as far as Durango, but my body is weary and mind rested, so a good walk.

"My eight days on the CDT made me appreciate even more the work done by The Colorado Trail Foundation and its many volunteers. I am also grateful that the CTF is working to maintain much of the CDT. Other parts of the CDT, including parts I walked, would benefit greatly from such efforts. Thanks for all you do."

— DAVE HALE, BOULDER, COLO.





## The Colorado Trail Foundation

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### *True love gains traction on the Trail*

#### ANOTHER REASON TO VOLUNTEER FOR A TRAIL CREW?

*Here's a note that accompanied a recent contribution to the Colorado Trail Foundation:*

"My wife, Ruth, and I have strong ties to the CT since we met while working on a trail crew. I was the leader of a crew working on a section near the North Fork of the Swan River in Summit County and Ruth came out from Michigan to work as a crew member. Two years later we were married and will be celebrating our 20-year anniversary on Sept. 25. We're sending this as an anniversary gift from us. Keep up the good work that you and others are doing. My regards to my dear friends Gudy Gaskill and Merle McDonald." – Bill Cannon, Leesburg, Fla.

In a follow-up e-mail, Bill noted, "We have many fond memories of the numerous trail crews we, along with our many friends, worked on. One of our prized possessions is a picture of Ruth using a pole saw to cut limbs off a pine tree."

*Do you have a favorite memory, or memories, of a trail crew experience?  
Drop us a line at [ctf@ColoradoTrail.org](mailto:ctf@ColoradoTrail.org).*

