The Colorado Trail Foundation

SPRING 2013



Take A Hike with New Data, Map Books

Nearly every thru-hiker or segment-

bagger carries one. Even some Colorado Trail day-hikers won't leave home without it. A dog-eared, notated copy is a mark of pride to many.

"It" is the Colorado Trail Databook, the pocket-size companion to The Official Guide to the Colorado Trail and newly revised Colorado Trail Map Book.

The much-anticipated 5th Edition of the *Databook* will soon be available at The Colorado Trail Foundation's online CT Store (*shop.ColoradoTrail.org*) and outdoor retailers across the state. Keep checking the CTF website, the CT Store, or the CTF Facebook page for information on when it will be available. You can e-mail the CTF (*ctf@ColoradoTrail.org*) for updates as well

"The new *Databook* reflects months and months of work by CTF staff and volunteers to make it the most accurate and informative field book on The Colorado Trail to date," says CTF Executive Director Bill Manning. "Volunteer assistance has been vitally important, including contributions by Jerry Brown, Valerie Miller, George Neserke and Dan Cohen."

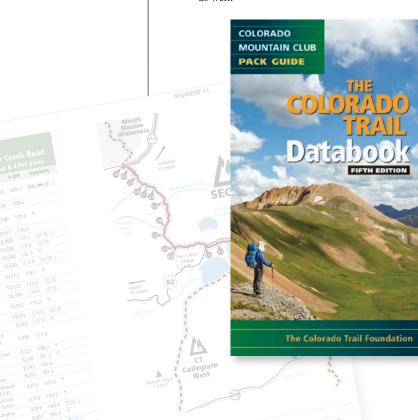
The 88-page 5th Edition will include 80 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the Collegiate Mountains that were recently officially added to The Colorado Trail by the CTF. Designated as the CT Collegiate West, the "new 80" offers enthusiasts an alternative to the current 80 miles that run along the eastern slope of the Collegiates between Twin Lakes and Monarch Pass. It also creates a 160-mile loop that is expected to become highly popular with hikers looking for a spectacular multi-day trip in the heart of the Colorado Rockies that doesn't require shuttling vehicles. Other 5th Edition *Databook* features:

» New color maps of each segment of the Trail with

- New color maps of each segment of the Trail with more detailed descriptions of important features along the Trail, including water sources, campsites, nearby fourteeners, road names.
- >> For the first time, the Databook will include the bicycle detours around wilderness areas, reflecting the rising popularity of the trail among mountain bikers
- » Elevation profiles of each Trail segment to help users gauge the effort required. Also included in the new edition are elevation profiles of bicycle detours.
- » A new comprehensive section on places to resupply along the trail.

On sale now at the CT online store and many outdoor retailers is the 2013 revision of *The Colorado Trail Map Book*, which also includes the new Collegiate West route.

The 92-page, 8½-by-11-inch book offers the most detailed look of the CT available and is a great companion to the *Guidebook* and *Databook* in planning and tracking your travel along the Trail. The shaded



- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

 $\it Tread\ Lines$ 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Steve Staley, Centennial, Chairman Jerry Brown, Durango, Vice Chair Carol Foster, Estes Park, Treasurer Carolyn Burtard, Littleton, Secretary Jack Berryhill, Black Hawk Tim Burroughs, Lakewood Bill Cartwright, Durango Dan Cohen, Golden Bob Hoban, Evergreen George Miller, Manitou Springs Steve Stadler, Colorado Springs Blake Welch, Louisville Ex Officio Members:

Greg Warren, Golden, USFS Liaison Gudy Gaskill, Golden, President Emeritus

STAFF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Bill Manning DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS: Aimée O'Malley

TREAD LINES:

CONTENT: Tim Burroughs DESIGN: Welch Creative Group, Inc.



The Colorado Trail Foundation

710 10th St., Room 210 Golden, CO 80401

Phone: 303-384-3729 (24-hour voice mail) Email: ctf@ColoradoTrail.org www.ColoradoTrail.org

Executive Director's Update



Excitement is building for the upcoming trail season and the Colorado Trail Foundation office is abuzz with preparations. We've been immersed in the normal

springtime tasks: assisting CT users with their trip plans, registering trail crew participants and coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service.

This year we've also taken on a couple of exciting, yet demanding, tasks that don't happen every year: learning and documenting the new Collegiate West alternative route that we officially added to the CT earlier this year and, as described in this issue's cover story, authoring a new Colorado Trail Databook, a total revamp and enhancement of the old Databook, including the Trail's new 80 miles.

We know that this guide, a pocket-sized companion to the Official Guide to the Colorado Trail, is extremely popular with CT users like you and that you are anxiously awaiting its publication. We're racing to meet our goal of having it on retail store shelves

and in our online CT Store in time for this year's trail season. Keep an eye on our website (ColoradoTrail.org) and our Facebook page for updates on a publication date.

If you'd like e-mail updates on the availability of this little gem, e-mail the CTF office at ctf@ColoradoTrail.org and we'll do our utmost to keep you in the loop.

While I've got your ear, I'd like to add that I hope you'll consider volunteering for a trail crew this summer. We could really use your help. Several of this year's crews will be working on the new Collegiate West 80, helping with a multi-year effort to move and enhance the existing tread.

Trail crews are fun. Many participants return year after year to support the Trail, camp and work and play with like-minded people, and simply enjoy a week or weekend in the glorious Colorado Rockies. But new blood is always needed, and welcomed. Granted, the work is sometimes hard, but everyone works at his or her own pace, and you'll marvel at how much a crew can accomplish in a just a few days.

A more complete description of this summer's crew schedule appears elsewhere in this issue of Tread Lines. Please visit ColoradoTrail.org/crews and sign up today.

See you on the Trail.

CTF Board Says Hello, Goodbye

The Colorado Trail Foundation Board of Directors has added a new member and bid farewell to two others after several years



Joining the board this year is Bob Hoban, of Evergreen, an avid hiker, backpacker, and mountain biker, who is a member of the Colorado Mountain Club, a veteran on the

Appalachian Trail, and experienced in Utah canyoneering. He climbed Mount Kilimanjaro

A managing partner in the law firm of Hoban & Feola, with a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado, he will bring his considerable legal and outdoors experience to the board.

Departing the board are:

» Larry Eads, of Durango, who joined the board in 2007. During his tenure he served on the Executive Committee and as chairman of the board's Planning Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and reporting on U. S. Forest Service activities that have an impact on

The Colorado Trail. He also has been a trail crew volunteer and has helped section adopters with their upkeep of the Trail.

» Ernie Norris, of Durango, who joined the board in 2004. While on the board, he served on the Executive and Friends committees and was the board's liaison to the CTF's Trekking Program. He plans to remain active in the upkeep of the trail.

"We have been extremely fortunate to have people of Larry and Ernie's caliber on the board," says CTF Board Chairman Steve Staley. "Their contributions have been tremendous. We're excited as well to have Bob join us."



- CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

relief, color topographic maps include the CT line in precise detail as well as 1,200 GPS waypoints (approximately every half mile) for accurate navigation.

The spiral-bound *Map Book* can be easily disassembled, allowing users to carry just what pages they need. The tonerbased printing is water resistant (though not waterproof). Like the Databook, it includes bicycle detours.









Trekkers On the Move

Jeanne and Chris Szczech of Colorado Mountain Expeditions manage one the premiere trekking programs in the country for The Colorado Trail Foundation. There's no better proof of that than how quickly their guide-led, fully-supported trips fill up each year. Of the nine weeklong treks this summer, seven were full by the end of February.

This year's trekking schedule and status:

- » Section 1, June 16-21, South Platte, Full.
- » Section 2, June 23-29, Kokomo Pass, Full.
- » Section 3, July 30-July 5, Holy Cross, Full.
- » Section 4, July 7-12, Chalk Creek, Full.
- » Section 5, July 14-19, Cochetopa Valley, Full.
- » Section 6A, July 21-27, Cataract Ridge, Available.
- » Section 7A, July 28-Aug. 2, Indian Trail Ridge, Full.
- » Section 6B, Aug. 4-10, Cataract Ridge, Available.
- » Section 7B, Aug. 11-16, Indian Trail Ridge, Full.

There is a wait list available for the full sections and registration forms for the two available treks, as well as more information on all of the treks, at ColoradoTrailHiking.com. For future reference, mark your calendars for Dec. 1 each year. That's when the trekking

schedule is posted at ColoradoTrailHiking.com. This year's cost per trek is \$975 (\$875 for Section 1). Space is limited to 12 participants per section.







Adopters Answer the Call

Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator Janet Farrar found herself facing a huge task this year: finding adopters to not only fill openings created by the typical run of retirements and other departures, but also to cover the 80 new Collegiate West miles recently added to The Colorado Trail.

No problem. Twelve new adopters quickly stepped forward in response to her call, including eight on the new 80 miles. Such has been the wonderful history of volunteerism on the CT.

Adopters are a special group of volunteers who take on a stretch of the CT ranging from 3 to 20 miles, repairing washouts, clearing downed trees and loose rocks, putting up new signage, performing other maintenance tasks, and reporting to the CTF office on trail conditions and the need for more extensive repairs.

Some have been "on the job" for years, but newcomers are always welcome. If you have an interest in adding your name to the list, contact Janet Farrar at wildjc@juno.com.









Lure of Thru-Hiking and Biking is Strong

The always-popular springtime Colorado Trail presentations at Front Range REI locations are continuing to play to full or nearly full houses again in 2013.

This year both backpacking and mountain biking events are being held, a sign of the increasing popularity of the Trail with cyclists looking for adventures beyond day rides.

Retired Air Force officer **Stan Foster**, of Estes Park, is this year's backpacking presenter. Stan drew media attention last summer after he took an adventurous route to his 50th high school reunion in Durango: thru-hiking the CT, beginning in Denver and ending in time to celebrate with his classmates. Joined by his wife, **Carol**, a member of the Colorado Trail Foundation Board of Directors, they describe how to plan and take on the hike of a lifetime.

The mountain biking presentations feature four mountain bikers, ranging in age from 17 to 52, who traversed the trail over the course of two summers. Calling their trip the "ultimate high," they discuss gear and food selection, training, and logistical challenges, as well as the rewards of tackling this incredible adventure.

Several presentations were given in April and more are scheduled for June. All of the events are free.

Dates and places for upcoming presentations of "Hiking The Colorado Trail: Adventure for All Ages" are:

- » Tue., June 11, Fort Collins REI, 4025 S. College Ave.
- » Thu., June 13, Colorado Springs REI, 1376 E. Woodmen Road

"Ultimate High: Mountain Biking The Colorado Trail" will be presented on:

- » Wed., June 5, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Denver Flagship REI, 1416 Platte St.
- » Wed., June 12, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Boulder REI, 1789 28th St.
- >> Wed., June 19, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Westminster REI, 14696 Delaware St.

For more information or to register for tickets, go to *ColoradoTrail.org* and click on Events and Media Center. You can also register at individual REI store sites. Go to *REI.com* and click on the Store Locator link.



Trail Crews – Play in the Dirt, Create Memories

Leave your mark on The Colorado Trail by taking part in one (or more) of the 12 trail crew opportunities this summer. Several crews will be working on portions of the newly adopted 80 miles of the Trail known as the CT Collegiate West, after the mountain range they pass through.

It's not an experience you'll soon forget, which is why many participants return year after year to build new trail, improve old tread, or simply enjoy the company of other outdoor enthusiasts and trail lovers. Spots are still available on most crews.



Weeklong crews run Saturday to Saturday, with Wednesday off. Weekend crews run Friday through Sunday, with the exception of one crew, which will span Friday through Monday.

This year's weeklong crews:

- » Crew 0113, July 6-13; Middle Fork Arkansas River (Salida Ranger District). Glenn Kepler, leader; jeep-in (base camp is normally accessible only by four-wheel-drive, high-clearance vehicles); participants will build new trail and move the combined Colorado Trail/Continental Divide National Scene Trail off a road while enjoying this beautiful part of the Rocky Mountains just north of Garfield and Highway 50 near Monarch Pass; Collegiate West; elevation 10,500 feet.
- » Crew 0213, July 13-20, same description as Crew 0113. Bill Carpenter, leader.
- » Crew 0313 (FULL) July 27-Aug. 3, Browns Creek (Salida Ranger District). John Lipe and Steve Stadler, leaders; drive-in (base camp is normally accessible by conventional automobile); volunteers will rebuild an important CT access trail and camp near the scenic Browns Creek Trailhead in Segment 14; elevation 9,500 feet.
- » Crew 0413, Aug. 3-10, Winfield (Leadville Ranger District). Tom Brooksher, leader; drive-in*; participants will be finishing a new section of the CT Collegiate West, completing an effort that began three years ago, while camping near Clear Creek and the ghost town of Winfield; elevation 10,000.

- » Crew 0513, Aug. 10-17; same description as Crew 0413. Cindy Johnson, leader; drive-in*.
- » Crew 0613, Aug. 17-24; same description as Crew 0413. Loren Woods, leader; drive-in*.
- » Crew 0713, Aug. 17-24; Tunnel Gulch (Salida Ranger District). Bill Carpenter, leader; jeep-in; the crew will extend a new section of the CT Collegiate West above the ghost town of St. Elmo, while camping in a beautiful valley beneath Tincup Pass; elevation 11,000.
- » Crew 0813, Aug. 24-31; same description as Crew 0713. Steve Stadler and John Lipe, leaders.

The weekend crews:

- Weekend Crew WE113, June 14-16; Rock Creek (South Park Ranger District). Loren Woods, leader; drive-in; participants will improve sections of the CT overlooking majestic South Park, camping near Rock Creek in Segment 5; elevation 9,700 feet.
- Weekend Crew WE213 (women-only crew), June 28-July 1; Kenosha Pass/Jefferson Creek (South Park Ranger District). Cindy Johnson, leader; drive-in; crew members will camp in a lovely meadow overlooking South Park and make improvements needed to preserve the CT near Kenosha Pass and Jefferson Creek in Segment 6; elevation 10,000 feet.
- Weekend Crew WE313, July 12-14; Wurts Ditch (Leadville Ranger District). Paul Smith, leader; drive-in; volunteers will make important repairs on some rocky trail in this area, while camping in a rugged valley west of Tennessee Pass in Segment 9; elevation 10,300 feet.
- Weekend Crew WE413, July 26-28; Tennessee Pass (Leadville Ranger District). Paul Smith, leader; drive-in; the team will camp near Mitchell Creek above the historic site of Camp Hale, World War II home of the famous 10th Mountain Division, while improving sections of the co-located CT and CDT in Segment 8; elevation 10,300.

Cost of the weeklong crews is \$60 per person; weekend crews cost \$30. Multi-crew discount applies. Registration forms and waivers were sent to Friends of the Colorado Trail in a recent mailing. Those forms and more information on the crews are also available at *ColoradoTrail.org*.

*Drive-in: Incorrectly marked as Jeep-in on crew brochure, but has since been revised.





Exposed

(This piece was written by J. Bryant Baker, of New Braunfels, Texas, who thru-hiked The Colorado Trail with his wife, Laura, in 2012. "I have a passion," he says, "for spending time out in nature and also for trying to inspire others to spend time as well.")

Clouds begin to appear, ever so slightly revealing themselves just beyond the next ridgeline. In what was once an ocean blue sky stretching out to every horizon, clouds like puffs of cotton the color of charcoal are seemingly stacking atop each other with each passing minute. It is as if they have climbed up the backside of this mountain, now anticipating our meeting at the upcoming high mountain pass.

The surrounding peaks are slowly becoming swallowed like boulders in a swollen desert stream, inundated by the rushing flood of dark churning clouds. As I look up, my head unconsciously turns with my wandering, widening eyes, and I realize this flood, this storm, has now encompassed me as well. In the fine line that exists between paralyzing fear and overwhelming awe, I find myself . . . exposed.

It is a place I have found myself many times before, and oddly enough it is a place that I long to find myself again and again. As someone who has spent the last 10 years working as a river guide, I have found that there are many parallels between the river and the trail, but none more special to me than those moments of exposure. Whether in the midst of chaotic whitewater or the humbling power of a storm, there is a certain sacredness in realizing you are in the midst of uncontrollable grandeur.

Some of the most impressive, unnerving, and awe-inspiring storms I have experienced happened while thru-hiking The Colorado Trail with my wife last summer. Lightning bolts darted across the sky. Hail pelted us along treeless ridges, one day assaulting us on four separate occasions. Rain fell in sheets, completely soaking us through multiple times. For the first time I can remember, thunder pounded so close and with such force that I felt it inside me, like my heart was the epicenter of this deep, echoing boom that was making its way to my fingertips and toes.



Mark your calendars for these upcoming Colorado Trail Foundation events:

Sept. 14 – Friends of The Colorado Trail Thank You Picnic 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Bear Creek Lake Park, Lakewood.

Oct. 19 – Durango Friends Reception 5:00-7:00 p.m., Carver Brewing Co., Durango.

Dec. 5 – Holiday Reception 4:00-7:00, American Mountaineering Center, Golden.







Immediately following some particularly impressive displays, Laura and I would turn toward each other, eyebrows raised and eyes wide and round, as if looking through a magnifying glass. We would not say a word.

While in the Weminuche Wilderness, making our way across an open, high stretch of trail, we found ourselves once again in the midst of the madness. It was just before making the steep drop into the Elk Creek drainage. Thunder bounced off towering rock walls and the wind made the rain and hail fall horizontally. It was intense. Lightning began flashing all around us, to the point that it became impossible to tell which direction the storm was coming from or where it was going.

We kept going back and forth as to what our next step should be. Do we hunker down and wait it out, or make a push for the Elk Creek descent and find some cover? No matter what we decided, we did know that there would be no spectating here. This would be felt.

Finally, there was a lull, just enough of a break to make a dash down into Elk Creek. The worst of the storm had passed, and as we made our way down the steep, winding switchbacks, we began to realize the rain had left us a gift in its wake. The sheer, vertical rock walls that line the drainage were now the birthplace of waterfalls. Every few steps seemed to reveal another one, thin streaks of water tumbling down barren cliffs. The following few miles became some of the most memorable of the entire hike.

There is a deep truth in these moments of chaos and terror, in the awe and humility. So often life can be insulated and predictable. Whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, it is always easier to hold back. In the "real world," we do not have to put ourselves out there. But in holding back, we miss out on a chance to learn a little more about ourselves.

A large part of my passion for the rivers and wild places of this world is rooted in the fact that nature exposes me. In the torrent of storms and raging rapids, there is no place to hide. There is the element of risk. Not the vain risk that is taken solely for the sought after reward, but the humble risk of seeing what we are made of for our own sake. The humble risk of being okay with not having complete control.

It is the humble, seemingly nonsensical risk of putting "life" on hold to walk 500 miles through the mountains. It is the risk of finding yourself in that fine line between paralyzing fear and overwhelming awe and realizing . . . this is sacred.

Delightful Dilemma: East or West?

For the first time this summer Colorado Trail thru-hikers are going to face a decision when they reach Twin Lakes from the north or Monarch Pass from the south: Do we fork east or west?

The delightful dilemma was created by the addition of 80 miles to the Trail on the west side of the Collegiate Peaks range. Both the Collegiate East and the new Collegiate West routes are nearly identical in length, so thru-hikers will still log around 486 miles from end to end, but each has its own charms and spectacular scenery, highlighted by a dozen of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks.

A delightful dilemma indeed.

The new 80 miles, which also are part of the 3,000-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that runs from Canada to Mexico, features such landmarks as the beautiful Hope Pass and Lake Ann. Much of the current route now follows old logging and mining roads, but is being rerouted and rehabilitated as part of a multi-year project involving crews from The Colorado Trail Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Southwest Conservation Corps, and Buena Vista Correctional Facility. Trail signs are already in place to aid users along the new route.

Maps of the new route are now available in the *Colorado Trail Map Book*, *CT Collegiate Loop Map Book*, *Latitude 40° Salidal Buena Vista Trails Map*, and *MountainMaps — The Sawatch Range*, all for sale at the online CT Store (*shop.ColoradoTrail.org*). A fuller description of the Collegiate West trail will be part of the soon-to-be-published 5th Edition of the *Colorado Trail Databook*.

More information is also available at *ColoradoTrail.org*. Go to Trip Planning and click on Collegiate West.

Collegiate West Highlights

- » Elevation gain: 18,478 feet
- » Higher route (and sometimes more exposed)
- » Tunnel Gulch Alpine Tunnel
- » Great fishing, with numerous lakes and streams
- » Nearby Fourteeners: Mounts La Plata and Huron
- » Resupply locations: Twin Lakes, Taylor Park Trading Post, Tincup, Saint Elmo, Garfield, Monarch Pass

Collegiate East Highlights

- » Elevation gain: 17,791 feet
- » Harvard Lakes
- » Mount Princeton Hot Springs
- » Chalk Cliffs
- >> Nearby Fourteeners: Mounts Yale, Princeton, Shavano and Tabeguache
- » Resupply locations: Twin Lakes, Buena Vista, Mount Princeton Hot Springs, Salida

GIFTS That Live On

Marce Guerrein, an avid hiker known as "Mountain Woman," logged thousands of trail miles across the U.S. and around the world. She loved The Colorado Trail, participating in the 1988 Trail-A-Bration, the first thru-hike of the Trail, and working on several of the early trail crews.

Hilde Dunnahoo was a native of Poland who emigrated with her husband, an Army major she met in Germany, to the U.S., and eventually Colorado Springs, in the 1950s. She loved hiking and skiing Colorado's mountains. She, too, was a big supporter of the Trail.

When Marce died in Ocala, Fla., in December at the age of 90, and Hilde in February in Colorado Springs at age 87, both asked that memorials in their name be made to The Colorado Trail Foundation. The gifts from their families and friends will go far in maintaining a treasure they loved far into the future.

Such legacies are an important part of the support the CTF receives from friends of the Trail. As such, the Foundation encourages supporters to consider making such memorials part of their life and estate planning. Whether large or small, your gift will help keep the Trail going for future generations.

Your financial adviser, lawyer or accountant can help set up a charitable gift. Legacy gifts to The Colorado Trail Foundation can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, proceeds of insurance policies, or the sale of property. Another way is to name the CTF as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA or pension plan.

When you make a legacy gift, you join a special group we call our Circle of Friends, folks from all walks of life who have in common a love for The Colorado Trail and to ensuring its preservation.





ONE-STOP CT Shop

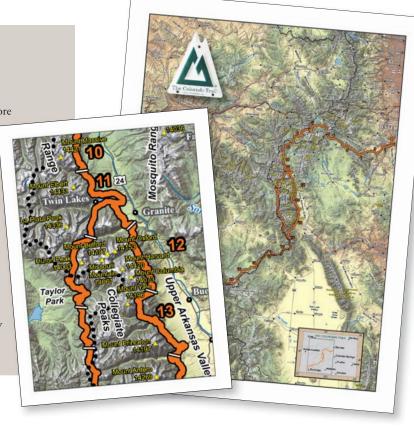
If you haven't visited the Colorado Trail Foundation's online store lately, check it out at *shop.ColoradoTrail.org*. Your purchase is another great way to support the work of the Foundation as well as show off your CT pride.

In addition to the soon-to-be-published 5th Edition *Databook* and newly revised *Colorado Trail Map Book* (see cover story), new commemorative items have been added. They include a revised Colorado Trail poster map and a set of four pint glasses featuring the CTF logo.

The new 18-by-24-inch, shaded relief poster map is suitable for framing. Created by U.S. Geological Service cartographers, it beautifully depicts the Trail atop the Rocky Mountain landscape. Every mountain and valley jumps off the map. Highlighted features include 53 Colorado fourteeners, those peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation.

Also recently added are Completer and Supporter Pride Signs, 5 7/8-by-8 3/8-inch plaques carved out of the same material as many of the CT's intersection signs, with brown exterior and white core.

T-shirts, hats, tools, guidebooks, and maps also available.



710 10th Street, Suite 210 Golden, Colorado 80401



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit 1818 Denver, Colorado