

CATS End of Year Report - 2015



By: Bob Johnson, Senior Director

Organizing a new CATS (Colorado Addicted Trail-builders Society) Chapter up in Northern Colorado was a bit of a personal challenge in late 2012. My wife – Connie accepted a new position at Hewlett Packard (HP) in Fort Collins, CO in 2011. She was commuting once a week from Colorado Springs and I was driving (chauffeur). Four hours of commute time in one day and eventually that grew old and we started looking for a place to live up here. Loveland won out on the house grab and we settled in at our new place, May 2012.

With that said, we (my wife and I) started the new chapter two up here in the Ft Collins/Loveland area in the spring of 2013. The startup was timed concisely with the recovery efforts from the Galena Fire which destroyed most all the wooden bridges at Lory State Park. Our CATS team started working on restoring the bridges (10) and recruiting members. CATS made a good impression with state park officials there at Lory State Park. All the rest is history as CATS started to expand into other areas within Larimer County, Ft Collins Natural Areas, and Lory State Park. CATS entered into a new partnership with another agency this year - City of Loveland Open Lands and Natural Areas. The bulk of our end of season work concluded down in Loveland.



Firsts for 2015

Some firsts for CATS this year include: **two weekend camping projects** [Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Lory State Park] which involved a lot of planning and logistics. I would personally like to thank my wife for most of the menu planning and procurement of all the meals we consumed out there in the wilds. She was likewise the primary chef. Furthermore the camping members deserve credit in aiding with the camp layout, set up and working on trails for two full days. CATS have plans for addition camping trail treks for 2016 and beyond.

Another big first for CATS was the **ability to design and build a foot trail**. CATS were offered an opportunity to show off its trail skills and design talents in Loveland this year. The communities around the Mariana Butte, located adjacent to the Mariana Butte Golf Course and Wapiti Restaurant were using this land, that is owned by the Loveland Open Lands and Areas, superficially with rogue cut through trails to the golf course from neighborhood openings in the HOA lands. Steve Southard, Golf Operations Manager for Mariana Golf Course, and resident of the nearby community, had a vision of a trail that would circumnavigate the base of the butte. His revelation has come true. CATS has indeed designed, improvised trail structures, cut in trail and almost finished the new "Mariana Butte Trail".

CATS also instructed several volunteers on the **art of building a stone retaining wall**. This Trails skills class was conducted at Pinewood Reservoir in conjunction with the newly designed portion of the Bisant Trail (CATS designed last year). This class was a real challenge and narrowed down to one dedicated student - Jim Broderick and I while we slipped/slide in the mud, sleet, rain and cold to get this wall erected. This was not your standard level retaining wall. The fact was this originated as a climbing retaining wall with a trail grade of 20% or more. The trail met at two different levels. It took us three visits to get it done.

CATS graduated one **new crew leader – Denny Auciello** and put him to work all season: leading trail crews when asked.

This is the **first full ‘end of year’ report** and perhaps it will get better with a new design and format next year.

CATS have a new ‘bean counter’ or **accounting clerk** [we will have a new name for some of directors next year]. Dean Sindorf has stepped to assist in the culpability and essentially recording data and creating statistics for our trail group. Our forms and methods keep changing and the data and photos are diligently analyzed and then archived.

CATS has a new website: www.trailcats.org that is under development and in the near future will be ‘go to place’ to review our work, study stats, entertain, recruit, instruct, link up to other trail groups, and more. Many thanks to Lynn Formanek for being our web master.

Our **Facebook Page** has been set up and populated by Jerry Benoit for over two years now and recently he handed over the operations to Dean Sindorf. Facebook has been a very good media outlet for CATS as it is rapid dissemination of trail events and quick reports for anyone to review. The photos say a thousand words and help paint a vivid picture of what CATS can do for the trails around the Northern Colorado area. CATS thanks Jerry and now Dean for maintaining this social media outlet for CATS.

In closing, I believe CATS is here to stay and play. We have established a foundation of trust, clarity, vision, sharing, quality work, building teams, producing good crew leaders and with all that responsibility – we still have a lot of fun. CATS have more to do next year. We are headed in the direction of becoming a tax exempt organization with the filing of the 501c3 and receiving our IRS tax number. With this status, CATS can move forward with the visualization of writing grants and receiving monies that can only benefit our group. I do not perceive our group to get as large as the other trail groups in the area.

Our greatest assets are our members. They are the dedicated volunteers that suit up in trail garb, at times leave behind personal commitments, travel great distances, mess up their vehicles with trail tools, work hard without complaint, in hot or foul weather or

slashing through snake infested dense bush, endure me on projects, and never ask for compensation, but rather a hand shake; a smile; or a few words of praise. It is the bonding of trail addicts that propels this organization to greater heights. I look forward to working with all of you next year and thank you for your strength, wisdom, forbearance, and most of all – your friendship.

Bob Johnson
Director



2015 Outdoor Work Stats

Total feet of new trail mixed with repaired trail:	9896
Total feet of closed down trail for restoration:	1794
Total individual hours dedicated to events:	340
Total combined individual hours for all projects:	1910

The derived figures may not be as accurate as they are recorded.

Avg. members per event:	5
Avg. work hours for year:	4.92 hrs.
Total trail projects:	14
Total Partnership Projects	3
Total events:	69
Total individual hours at events:	340
Total project hours:	1909 hrs.
Total new/rehab trail:	9896 ft.
Avg. new/rehab trail per event:	180 ft.
Total closure trail:	1794 ft.
Avg. close trail per event:	32.61 ft.
Total design and trail build projects:	2
New members:	2
Total active members:	6
Public events: Booth assignments:	2
Rockwall class	1
Crew Leader class	1
Scouting trips for trail design	2
Onsite trail design	1
Crew Leader assist projects	2
Day events for public	2
Tool cleaning session	1
Meetings	6
College students - instruction	1

Definitions: Project = the area/park/trail that is the primary worksite Events = the repetitive trips back to the project site until completed Individual Hours = hours for an event that everyone gets credit Total Project Hours = everyone's combined hours for that project

Most Worked Projects based on total individual Hours

1. Mariana Butte Trail	81.5
2. Shoreline Trail	35.5
3. LSP horse jumps	33
4. Timber Trail LSP	24
5. Cheyenne Rim Trail	24
6. Bisant Trail	17.5
7. Devils Backbone: trail & Keyhole	16



<u>Partnership Trail Groups -</u>	<u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u>	<u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u>
PWV - Hewlett Gulch Trail	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>
VOC - Arthurs Rock Trail	<u>14</u>	<u>42</u>
LC - Horsetooth Reservoir	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>

<u>LSP</u>	<u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u>	<u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u>
Shoreline Trail	<u>35.5</u>	<u>190.5</u>
Horse jumps	<u>33</u>	<u>81</u>
Timber Trail	<u>24</u>	<u>144</u>
Cove Trail	<u>8</u>	<u>128</u>
East Valley Trail	<u>4</u>	<u>32</u>

<u>FCNA</u>	<u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u>	<u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u>
Cheyenne Rim Trail- Soapstone Prairie NA	<u>19</u>	<u>76</u>
Crew Leading at Soapstone	<u>5</u>	<u>25</u>
Timber Trail	<u>8</u>	<u>45</u>
Coyote Ridge NA	<u>4</u>	<u>24</u>

<u>Larimer County</u>	<u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u>	<u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u>
Bisant Trail & Campground	<u>4</u>	<u>28</u>
Bisant Trail - retaining wall	<u>13.5</u>	<u>35</u>
Devils Backbone - Keyhole	<u>12.5</u>	<u>89.5</u>
Devils Backbone - trail	<u>3.5</u>	<u>14</u>

<u>City of Loveland Open Lands and Natural Areas</u>	<u>Tot. Ind. Hours</u>	<u>Total Proj. Hrs.</u>
Mariana Butte Trail	<u>81.5</u>	<u>746.5</u>