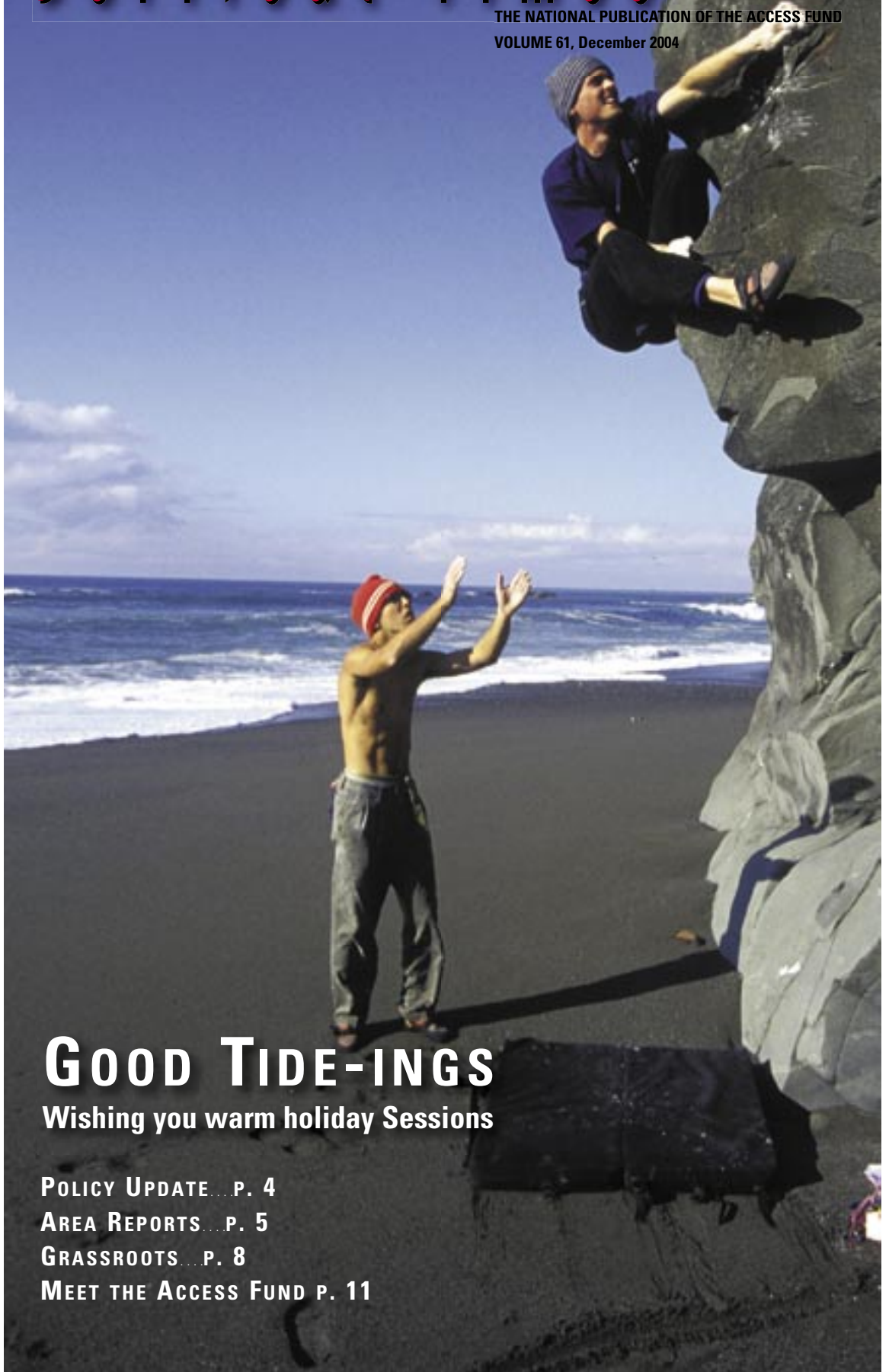


# Vertical Times



THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND  
VOLUME 61, December 2004



## GOOD TIDE-INGS

Wishing you warm holiday Sessions

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# A Gift That Keeps

*By Robb Shurr, Director of Marketing & Business Development*

The Holiday season is a time to remember, be grateful for past joys and opportunities, and look forward with hope. Gifts are exchanged, we enjoy time with family and friends, and we Remember. Remember times when life was easier. Remember friends and family. And we remember that boulder problem it took weeks to send.

We also reflect on things for which we are Grateful. Friends. Family. Being injury free as the desert rock cools down enough to develop that new line you've been looking at all summer.

Then we look forward with Hope. Hope those close to us can experience life to the fullest. Hope for sunny winter days to warm the rock enough to escape the cloud of chalk at the local climbing gym if only for an afternoon. Hope we can send this new boulder problem that we have already spent three weeks on . . .

Your support is directly responsible for accomplishing our mission of keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. Let us share some of our reflections from this past year where your generosity played an enormous role:

## **We Remember**

While outsiders to climbing may view climbers as loners who push ourselves to crazy heights, we know that climbing is actually more about community than solidarity. This Holiday season we remember those who have departed our climbing family and those who pushed the community to be better. From laughs to triumphs to cries of pain, in a weird way we have all done it together. We are all partners strengthening climbing's collective voice and maintaining our climbing future.

## **We're Grateful**

The simple act of volunteering your time at your local crag helps maintain climbing from coast to coast. We have never seen such an outpouring of volunteers who wanted to show how much they care about where they climb as we did this year with Adopt-a-Crag. You tipped the scales at 102 individual clean-up events. 3300 climbers across the country put in a combined total of 18,650 volunteer hours and grabbed shovels, garbage bags, and whatever else necessary to show how much they care about their local crags.

On the local level, crags are cleaner and landowners and land managers have experi-

**Cover photo:** Paul Humphrey spots Adam Wanden on the *Yogi Problem* at Lost Rocks, Arcata, California. The Access Fund has worked closely with Northern California climbers to preserve climbing access at Lost Rocks, where there was an Adopt-a-Crag event in 2004. Photo courtesy of Bennett Barthelemy.

# Climbing

enced first hand how much climbing means to you. On a national level your participation has strengthened the climbing community – political leaders and national government agencies have seen that climbers will work hard for what they believe in. Together strengthening climbers’ collective voice. Together we maintain our climbing future.

## We Hope

The want of a few at the detriment of many is an age-old problem. If the many lose their voice, we also lose what is most important – our choice. On yours and the environment’s behalf, we have been involved in a struggle to keep 2000 routes, boulder problems, and hundreds of acres of wilderness from being obliterated. Even if you’ve never heard of or climbed at Queen Creek, Arizona, this issue affects your climbing future. Even if you rarely leave the crags in the farmer’s pasture down the road, this effort is in your name. We are a global climbing community and when a closure affects a climber in one part of the country, we have all lost. While the fight isn’t over, we have hope. Together we maintain our climbing future. Together we strengthen climbers’ collective voice.

Without your continued generosity we’d all be standing at the bottom looking up-remembering past climbs with no hope for the future. *Our gift to you this year and every year is keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.* I know you were expecting some new socks, but we thought this would mean more to you. Thank you for all the gifts that you’ve given and are planning to give.

**Happy Holidays!**

**From your climbing family at the Access Fund office**

**PS.** If you’re out shopping for Holiday gifts, consider the Access Fund. We have Gift Memberships available with special premiums- perfect for your nieces and nephews who are just getting into climbing (see page 13 for more details).

*Editor’s Note: Please welcome Robb Shurr as the Access Fund’s new Director of Marketing & Business Development. Robb is an avid climber, boulderer, runner and cross country skier who hails most recently from Southern California — though he is a Midwesterner at heart. He is also one of the pioneers of the Boulder Project. He can be reached at [robb@accessfund.org](mailto:robb@accessfund.org) or 303-545-6772 (x100).*

# POLICY REPORT

## Your Voice Needed to Preserve Bouldering in Arizona

*(Report by Jason Keith, Policy Director)*

The Access Fund continues to work on a number of fronts to advocate for continued public access to the Oak Flat/Queen Creek area east of Phoenix, AZ. Access to portions of this unique bouldering area-home to the Phoenix BoulderBlast (formerly, the Phoenix Bouldering Contest which is the largest climbing event of its kind in the world)-may be lost forever if a mining proposal by Resolution Copper Company is approved to extract billions of dollars worth of copper. If this proposal goes through, substantial ground subsidence to the Oak Flat campground-right where the Phoenix BoulderBlast takes place-could cause the ground to collapse hundreds of feet.

For liability reasons, Resolution Copper would like to limit any public access to the areas above where the mining may occur (that is, much of the region's bouldering and roped climbing). In sum, the proposed mine could affect access to thousands of bouldering problems and roped routes and as such could be the largest loss of a climbing resource ever in the United States. For more information check out [www.accessfund.org/pdf/VT58.pdf](http://www.accessfund.org/pdf/VT58.pdf).

The Access Fund continues to work with the Friends of Queen Creek ([www.friendsofqueen creek.com](http://www.friendsofqueen creek.com))-a group of local Arizona activists (founded with the help of the Access Fund) that is dedicated to maintaining public access to the larger Queen Creek area-to keep people bouldering at Oak Flat. The Friends met in June with US Congressman Rick Renzi (Oak Flat is in his congressional district) to state our case, and in July the Access Fund's Steve Matous and Jason Keith traveled to Phoenix and met with the offices of Governor Napolitano, and US Senators McCain and Kyl. In October AF Policy Director Jason Keith joined FOQC members for a site tour of Oak Flat with staff from the Governor's office, and traveled to Flagstaff to meet with Paul Babbitt, a candidate for Arizona's 1st

Congressional District seat currently held by Rick Renzi.

Although the elections are over, **it is still very important that Arizona's elected officials hear from you.** Now more than ever your voice is needed to help maintain access to Oak Flat. If you live in Arizona, call or write your politicians, say you are a constituent, and express your concern regarding Oak Flat access. Even if you don't live in Arizona, give these same politicians a call and tell them how valuable and unique Oak Flat is to all Americans that travel there!

Talking points to focus on for your call include: Oak Flat is a unique, multi-use resource that enjoys long-standing federal protection (President Eisenhower issued a protective executive order back in the 1950s); users of Oak Flat are mobilized to assure continued protection; users of Oak Flat are aware that the site also has potential mineral resources owned by Resolution Copper; the Friends of Queen Creek are not anti-mine nor anti-development, but development cannot be at the expense of this irreplaceable resource; and if development is pursued, it must be subject to full public participation, not in the vacuum of a legislated land swap.

For contact information regarding Arizona elected officials, log onto [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org). In particular, focus on Governor Napolitano, US Congressman Rick Renzi, and US Senators McCain and Kyl. A sample advocacy letter on the issue can be found at: [www.accessfund.org/programs/Queen\\_letter\\_6\\_04.html](http://www.accessfund.org/programs/Queen_letter_6_04.html)



Access remains threatened at Queen Creek, Arizona. If closed, it could be the largest loss of a climbing resource in the history of the sport.

# AREA REPORTS

## MIDWEST

### Ohio Climbers Save Climbing Area



One of the biggest assets for opening a climbing site is maintaining a presence so that land managers have some known entity to approach. Individuals will have little success in opening a climbing area unless they already know the land manager personally or they can mobilize many people quickly to help. An organization with a demonstrated track record for cooperative work with other land managers will facilitate forming new relationships. You can use these other relationships as references.

Land managers often need volunteer help and organizations that can generate volunteers also have an advantage in opening climbing sites. Most managers depend upon volunteers to maintain sites, police them for trash, etc. They also appreciate an organization which can set standards for behavior and coach them about the appropriate uses for their site which fit the climber's needs and the land manager's needs for staffing and safety.

Organizations also have the advantage that they can familiarize themselves with the state and local laws in advance that impact climbing. This can go a long way to help a land manager understand the risks or lack of risks they take when opening a climbing site depending upon the pertinent laws in a particular place. Many land managers don't understand climbing, nor do their lawyers. Having lawyers in your organization who are truly familiar with recreational user statutes and other laws that benefit land managers and reduce their liability risk can go a long way toward easing their concerns.

Organizing climbers is like herding cats. But, if resources are limited in your state, it can make the difference between having climbing sites and not having them. Climbing has given me so much over the years that I want to give something back. Thus, I believe that the trials of directing a volunteer climbing organization are far outweighed by the rewards.

## Vertical Times, December 2004, volume 61.

The Access Fund is a national non-profit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.

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The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. *Vertical Times* is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund published six times a year in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

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**Editor's Note:** In *Vertical Times*, Volume 60 (p. 12), we interviewed Ohio Climbers Association (OCA) president Ron Schilb regarding the recent opening of a new climbing area in Fairborne, Ohio at Oaks Reserve. Due to space constraints we were not able to post the following article in which Ron sets forth strategies that helped build a relationship with City Park administrators and open a new area to climbers. Much of the news in the past generated by the Access Fund and local climbing organizations centers around keeping areas open due to a threat of closure. We also proactively work to maintain relationships with land managers in areas where climbing is a welcomed and recognized historical activity thus ensuring future access. And, sometimes we are able to build on the positive relationships we've developed to open areas that have been previously closed to climbing. Be sure to check out the next *Vertical Times* (#62) for a recent success in Colorado.



## **WEST**

### **Flatirons Alert: OSMP Visitor Master Plan**

*(Submitted by the Flatirons Climbing Council)*

As you may know the City of Boulder's Department of Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) has finished its Visitor Master Plan (VMP). Now seven years in the works, this document is a comprehensive plan for the management of our Open Space and Mountain Parks. The VMP has now been forwarded to the City Council for discussion and possible approval. At this point, the history of the VMP is less important than its impact for people who enjoy the open space and mountain parks for recreation. If you want to read the VMP, it's at <http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/openspace/plan.htm>.

For more info: [www.flatironsclimbing.com](http://www.flatironsclimbing.com)

### **Western Regional Workshop Summary**

*(Report by Matt Perkins, Washington Climbers' Coalition)*

Over the weekend of October 16-17, I attended a workshop presented by Access Fund staff members and attended by local climbing activists from northern California to Vancouver, BC. The group included some climbers relatively new to the sport and others with over thirty years active

involvement. There were boulderers and mountaineers. We didn't agree on everything that was discussed, but it was great to interact with a group of folks dedicated to working on access issues, land manager relations, environmental issues, and other related concerns.

One thing I found particularly useful was a discussion of current and recent issues in the areas represented by those present. In some cases, the best responses to these issues are obvious, but in others not so much. However, many climbers seem unaware that some of these issues are of significant concern. Among other things, we discussed current situations involving the following issues:

a. Development issues, such as a subdivision/golf course that swallowed up a climbing area near Bend, Oregon and the proposed Squamish tram in British Columbia.

b. Road decommissioning is a common practice after logging operations are completed on British Columbia crown lands. This is a common solution when roads become a nuisance to land managers as a result of police and management problems.

c. Tribal lands and cultural conflicts, including the use of sacred sites and such public relations issues as the naming of climbs in a manner that may be offensive for cultural reasons.

d. Bouldering impacts can be more concentrated and are often more closely adjacent to other user group activities than other types of climbing.

e. Dogs cause a variety of problems at many climbing areas.

f. Wilderness bolting and violations of other rules including permit requirements, fire regulations, or raptor closures raise problems on public lands.

g. Trespassing and ignoring landowner concerns cause problems on private lands.

h. Conflicting climbers often prevent discussion and cooperation about a wide variety of issues.

One idea that I found quite interesting was that local climbers concerned with raptor closures can help address these issues with a volunteer monitoring program that may help the land managers to more accurately tailor raptor closures

to actual nesting habits. At least in one instance, climbers were able to obtain less restrictive closures by promoting and contributing to a program that protected nesting sites during nesting season.



## **SOUTHEAST Jamestown, Alabama Update**

*(posted by Brad McLeod at*

*www.seclimbers.org)*

The Southeast Climbers Coalition is currently negotiating with the landowner and have tentatively agreed to a purchase price of approximately \$19,000.00 for 1,605 linear feet of cliff line. The SCC has raised over \$5,000.00 to date for the Jamestown purchase and hopes to reach a firm agreement in the very near future and have a contract to purchase the land.

Shawn Tierney, Access Fund access and acquisitions director, has been working directly with the SCC regarding the land purchase and the AF has pledged money for Jamestown.

Jamestown has been closed for several years after a dispute with a local landowner who closed the access to the top of the cliff. The majority of the cliff, along with the coveted access is owned by a private landowner. A portion of the cliff and boulderfield is located on Alabama Power land which is recreation friendly. This area encompasses over a mile of cliff line with many great traditional lines and a few super hard sport routes. The rock quality is high in areas. For more information, visit [www.seclimbers.org](http://www.seclimbers.org)

### **Boat Rock, GA January Events**

Boat Rock mini-trail day Adopt-a-Crag Day  
Saturday, January 8, 2005

Sponsored by The Southeastern Climbers  
Coalition and The Access Fund

Jan 14, 2005 "Float the Boat" Party at  
Concourse Athletic Club, Atlanta, GA to  
benefit the Boat Rock Preserve.

7:30 PM to 11:00 AM

Contact: Tracy Meazell  
[mizztracym@yahoo.com](mailto:mizztracym@yahoo.com)

Boat Rock "Float the Boat" Bouldering  
Competition, Saturday, January 15, 2005.

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# GRASSROOTS

## 2004 Access Fund Awards

Every year the Access Fund recognizes both businesses and individuals who have done extraordinary service on behalf of the climbing community's work in preserving access to and conserving the climbing environment. We are proud to announce the winners of this year's awards:

Sharp End: Larry Gustafson, Ashley Brown, Sam Waldstein, Aimee & Kyle Roseborough, Coreyography, Mountain Gear, Robb Shurr, and Heath Norton for leadership and activism in preserving climbing access and the climbing environment.

Land Manager of the year:

**Scott Berkenfield**, Bureau of Land Management, Utah. For demonstrating a commitment to preserving climbing opportunities and a progressive approach to public lands management.

Regional Coordinator of the year:

**Kellie Rice**. For leadership and activism in preserving climbing access and the climbing environment, and specifically for their volunteer work as an Access Fund representative.

The Bebie Leadership award:

**Brad McLeod**, Southeast Climbers Coalition. For being one of America's outstanding activists for the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment.

Menocal Lifetime achievement award:

**Andy Fitz**. For demonstrating remarkable commitment to the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment and contributing substantially to the progress of the Access Fund over many years. This highly prestigious award is only given periodically.

Michael Kennedy Award:

**Marte Lightstone** and **Becky Hall**. For outstanding leadership and commitment to our mission as a board member of the Access Fund.

## 2004 Adopt-a-Crag a Success

The Access Fund recognizes everyone who contributed to the success of the 5th Annual Adopt-a-Crag. The Access Fund supported over 100 Adopt-a-Crag events in 2004 – all told, those events involved more 3,300 volunteers who contributed almost 18,700 volunteer hours in 32 states, and British Columbia. Climbers gathered at their favorite crags and boulders for trail construction, litter clean-ups, and visual impact mitigation. A US Congressman (Mark Udall D-CO) even attended an event in Boulder!

Adopt-a-Crag is a national commitment by the climbing community to natural resource stewardship and volunteerism, and would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors. Title Sponsor Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Presenting Sponsor W.L. Gore, and Supporting Sponsor Clif Bar provided key financial backing that allowed the Access Fund to support each Adopt-a-Crag event. Due to number of incredibly successful Adopt-a-Crags, this year we expanded the number of REI Adopt-a-Crag of the Year awards to include one for the Western, Eastern, and Midwestern United States.

• **The Eastern U.S. Adopt-a-Crag of the Year award** is presented to Greg Corio of West Virginia University, the Coopers Rock Foundation, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Adventures Edge, and all the volunteers at Coopers Rock, West Virginia. A banner example of stewardship and community-mindedness, over 135 volunteers completed 562 hours of volunteer work including: site cleanup and landscaping, visual impact mitigation, trail building and restoration. For Corio, stewardship is a fundamental aspect of climbing. "It's important that climbers learn to give back to their local crags; it creates a sense of ownership and they become stewards for the land. Adopt-a-Crags are a great way of educating people on the impacts humans have on the environment because they see the impacts directly."

• **The Western U.S. Adopt-a-Crag of the Year award** is presented to Rusty Baille, Paul Chivvis, Kootenai Climbers, North



Idaho College, and the 50+ Post Falls Adopt-a-Crag volunteers. This Adopt-a-Crag exemplified local climbing organizations and businesses coming together to build a cohesive community, foster a better understanding of each other, as well as cultivate a great relationship with park administration and employees. Baille noted the importance of stewardship in building relationships. "We exceeded our expectations, all set objectives for the day's events were accomplished. Members of the Post Falls Parks and Rec expressed admiration and appreciation for the amount and quality of the services performed."

- Evan Fales, Eastern Iowa Climbers' Coalition, and the Pictured Rocks volunteers received the **Midwestern U.S. Adopt-a-Crag of the Year award**. Activities for the 7th Annual Pictured Rock Cleanup included installing steps with railroad ties on a steep muddy slope, performing trail maintenance, cleaning and painting the interior of the outhouse, repairing old and installing new fencing, clearing brush from ½ mile of trail, spreading wood chips over major cliff base to retard erosion, and blocking off trail access to allow for re-vegetation.

- The Access Fund and W.L. Gore present the **Adopt-a-Crag Stewardship Award** to Kenny Gasch, Bison Willy's Bunkhouse, and all the Shoshone River Canyon Adopt-a-Crag volunteers for displaying a high level of activism, stewardship, and an overwhelming sense of community. On

Sep 11th, 28 volunteers joined in the long-standing and much-anticipated Adopt-a-

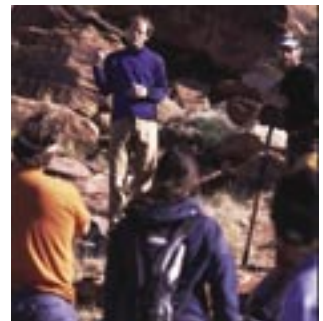
Crag tradition of cleaning up Shoshone River Canyon outside of Cody, Wyoming. Gasch, a long-time Adopt-a-Crag organizer, exemplifies the concept of "steward of the land." "As you can see, despite [uncertainty due to other pressing obligations], we managed to pull this thing off, and quite successfully at that. Every year, we leave the canyon free of trash and debris and have built a great relationship with the Bureau of Reclamation."



- The Access Fund and Clif Bar present the **Adopt-a-Crag Conservation Award** to Dana Seaton, newenglandbouldering.com, and the 60 Adopt-a-Crag volunteers at Lincoln Woods State Park, Rhode Island. Seaton coordinated with the State Park and 4 local nurseries to complete a re-vegetation project. With 20 donated small shrubs and bushes, volunteers addressed erosion at the most climber-affected area. They also constructed run-off troughs to carry water away from the boulders and trails and carried out over 700 pounds of trash and garbage, including tires, car doors, and car repair waste. Due to the great relationship they have built with the Park administrations, the park service has offered to build a climbers kiosk, with input from local climbers, as a means for the park to communicate and build relationships with climbers.



Coopers Rock Adopt-a-Crag, West Virginia. Winner of the Eastern US Adopt-a-Crag of the Year Award.



Photos from the following **2004 Adopt-a-Crag** events: Sonoma County, CA. Sunset Rock Clean-Up; Whitney Portal, CA.; Boulder, CO. Flagstaff Trash Bash; Clifton, ME. at Clifton; Brevard, NC. at Looking Glass Rock; Stephens State Park, NJ. at Allamuchy; Carson National Forest, NM. at El Rito; Indian Creek, UT.; Salt Lake City, UT. at American Fork Canyon; Anacortes, WA. at Mount Erie; Coopers Rock, WV.; Duluth, MN. at North Shore; North Conway, NH. at Cathedral Ledges and Whitehorse Ledge; Fort Collins, CO. at Duncan's Ridge; and Castlewood Canyon State Park, CO.

# MEET THE AF

## Mark Hesse, Director of the Rocky Mountain Field Institute and Access Fund Member

*(RMFI is a nonprofit environmental service and education organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wildlands and key natural areas through environmental service, education and research. RMFI was awarded the Public Lands Partner Award by the Utah BLM for its work in Indian Creek. [www.rmfi.org](http://www.rmfi.org))*

*Interview by John Heisel*

**JH:** What are some of the projects RMFI is currently working on?

**MH:** We are working on a major route improvement and restoration project on Crestone Needle (14,192 ft.) in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Colorado. We have significant restoration projects locally at the Garden of the Gods and on Pikes Peak (14,110 ft). Indian Creek and Crestone Needle are our biggest projects at climbing areas, although we try to get down to Shelf Road at least once a year.

**JH:** How long do these projects take?

**MH:** We work on projects for multiple years. Rarely do we get involved in short-term projects. We look at the specific needs of an area and address them. Our first project was at Eldorado Canyon in 1989. The emphasis there was to mitigate the impacts of climbers.

**JH:** How have trail projects evolved over the years?

**MH:** It's been interesting thinking about this. It's all part of an evolution that has been going on for 15 years or so now. And it tied directly to an increase in the popularity of the sport. Climbing was initially viewed simply as a personal expression. But that was a time when there weren't many climbers. A shift came when the climbers began to respond to the impacts that were beginning to occur. People began to view routes as resources for the climbing community at large. There was the realization that climbing hardware had to be maintained, and in some cases managed, that clean-ups and trail projects were needed. The Eldorado Canyon Trails Project is an example of one of these early efforts. It started when Michael Kennedy and I went up on the West Ridge [in the late eighties] and



Bryn Becker, RMFI senior instructor, uses the Earl Wiggins's rock moving system on the Crestone Needle trail project. In addition to being a trail master, Becker also ticked first ascents of the *Hallucinogen Wall* in the Black Canyon and *Supercrack* at Indian Creek.

realized something needed to be done. There were no established trails and the erosion was terrible. This project, and others like it, have led to the development of a far boarder, more mature perspective: one that takes into consideration the landscape at large, as well as physical, biological and cultural resources. I think that this is a direct result of 'hands-on' involvement, and stands testimony to the power caring for the land. You learn a tremendous amount about an area when you roll up your sleeves and go to work.

**JH:** Are climbers doing enough to take care of their climbing areas?

**MH:** No. While we've made significant progress, I don't believe we are meeting the challenge. I think by and large most climbers are not involved. And they should be and need to be. There are just too many issues. The days of just climbing are long gone. For instance at Indian Creek, it is baffling to me that the majority of climbers continue to use the area but are not involved in caring for it. The AF has been at the forefront of promoting the ethic of stewardship.

**JH:** What are some of the projects that RMFI has worked on with the AF?

**MH:** We've worked on the trail to Castleton Tower and on the trails at Shelf Road with grants from the AF. Indian Creek Canyon has been the largest one to date. We've pretty much done all the work at Indian Creek and the AF has really helped us. With the AF's help, we've com-

pleted trails to Broken Hand Wall, Bridger Jack, the Way Rambo Wall and, most recently, the Cat Wall. We now have a partnership agreement with the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) for five years. It's going to take a long while before the major improvements are finished at Indian Creek. We're happy that the AF is continuing to provide us with grant support.

**JH:** How would you describe your approach to trail construction?

**MH:** We don't view our projects as trail projects in the traditional 'trail blazing' sense. Our goal is not to make access easier but rather to reduce disturbance levels to the lowest possible level and, in many cases, to help restore the land. We always take the ecological characteristics of a given area into consideration. For example, we've developed certain techniques for working in the alpine zone. We try not to cut into the hillside and generally don't build water-bars. The reason we do this is to avoid disturbing the vegetation communities that take decades to develop. We always work with existing disturbances to the greatest degree and try not to build new trails. This isn't always possible. However we try to work with trails that already exist rather than build new ones. Since climbers tend to go straight up the cliffs or up a mountainside, we typically end up doing a significant amount of rockwork. And this is something that we take a great deal of pride in. We avoid building switchbacks, which are often built to eliminate the need for steps or structures that take time and money to construct. Building quality trails takes significant resources, and our approach is to find the resources we need to complete the highest quality work achievable.

**JH:** Do you involve agencies before beginning projects?

**MH:** We have to. It's a requirement under NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) for all federally managed lands. The actual design is also something that we develop in concert with the land managers we work with.

**JH:** How long has RMFI been in business?

**MH:** Since 1989. We started as the American Mountain Foundation.

**JH:** What are some of your biggest challenges?

**MH:** Finding the resources both in terms

of people and money. Our projects are typically expensive. Projects don't get down for free. RMFI's work is as good as it is because we employ a core field staff. Bryan Becker, RMFI senior field staff, is a great example. Here is a guy who was one of the best technical climbers of his generation. He has spent most of his life in the mountains. He now has gained the skills to complete the highest quality trail and restoration work. Training and keeping people like Bryan in the mix takes money. The reality is that the climbing community is going to have to devote a considerable amount of money to care for our areas.

**JH:** How much does a typical project cost?

**MH:** It depends. Most of our projects are taking several years. The trails in Indian Creek are costing about \$15,000 each. Crestone Needle is undoubtedly our most expensive project. It has taken three full seasons of work so far, and we will be back next summer. The work is above 13,000 feet. When completed, this project will probably total around \$200,000.

**JH:** What has climbing done for you?

**MH:** I think that climbing has provided me with the incentive and motivation to accomplish the conservation work that I'm so proud of. Overall, it's my environmental awareness that I'm most thankful for. If you never get beyond looking at climbing simply as an athletic endeavor, I think you've fallen short in getting out of climbing what really matters.

**JH:** What needs to be done to motivate climbers to be more involved?

**MH:** Part of it is trying to instill the stewardship ethic in each and every climber. Older climbers need to set an example for younger climbers. There are far too many individuals who are reaping the benefits of the sport without giving anything back. It's hard, because climbing is a self-centered activity and there are a lot of egos out there.

**JH:** Any final comments?

**MH:** I think the AF is assuming a pivotal role by advocating greater stewardship of our climbing areas. We must find a way to get the climbing community involved directly in caring for our areas. If you climb, you should support the AF and local stewardship groups with funds and labor.

## Available Online

### Receive the *Access Fund E-News* FREE

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To view the current issue of the *AF E-News*, visit: [accessfund.org/virtual\\_times/index.html](http://accessfund.org/virtual_times/index.html)

### Access Fund Member Handbook Online

The Member Handbook is a complete source of information about access issues, Access Fund programs, letter writing and other advocacy tools, and a primer on ways to get involved at your local crags. Look inside for:

- Tips for writing political action letters.
- What to do about climbing access problems.
- Guidelines about how to climb responsibly.

Download the PDF file at:  
[accessfund.org/pdf/memb-handbook.pdf](http://accessfund.org/pdf/memb-handbook.pdf)

### Vertical Times Also Online

*Vertical Times*, the Access Fund's bimonthly print newsletter you are reading, provides news on policy, area reports, events, action alerts, grants, and more. It is a benefit to members and non-members alike. **If you are not a member, please join at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org).** The AF is now offering this unique publication electronically to decrease printing and mailing costs, thus allocating more funds to protect YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE. If you choose to take part in this effort, and cease shipment of the *Vertical Times* to your home, please E-mail your name and address with "Remove *Vertical Times*" as the subject to: [memberservices@accessfund.org](mailto:memberservices@accessfund.org)

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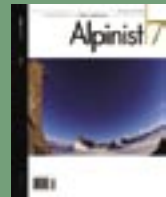
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Initiated in 1991, this program consists of over 100 businesses dedicated to preserving America's diverse climbing resources. After each company's name appears the year it became a corporate partner. Please support these companies, which support YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE.

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Haynes and Boone LLP – 2003

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SNEWS – 2002

## Events & Thanks

**Special thanks to volunteers at the Access Fund Headquarters:** Dave Gentry (membership assistance), Dave Goldstein (computer wizardry), and Erik Phillips-Nania (Grassroots Intern).

### Thanks for volunteering at Access Fund related events:

Sandy Boyd (Hound Ears Bouldering Competition) Biff Farrell, Lance Brock, Kurt and Elaina Smith (help at Little Rock City Bouldering Competition)

### Thanks for hosting an Access Fund event:

Metolius (event in Bend, OR)

### Thanks for contributing photos:

Corey Rich and Bennett Bartheleme

## Coming Soon in the Media...

See an article about the Access Fund in the February issue of *Outside Magazine* (on sale mid-January)

## Donate Your Old Car to the AF!

Now there is a free, convenient service for donating a car, truck, or RV, for a tax-deductible gift to the Access Fund. You can donate online or call 866-332-1778 to make your donation. Your contribution will help us keep your favorite crag open and give you a tax break. They pick up the vehicle and you get a tax credit for amount of sale. The website has more information on tax deductions and FAQs (frequently asked questions). The web address is:

[www.v-dac.com/org/?id=943131165](http://www.v-dac.com/org/?id=943131165)

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**In these uncertain times, life affirming activities such as climbing are more important than ever. Invest in the future of climbing. Give a gift to the Access Fund.**

There are many ways you can help preserve our valued climbing resources. The Access Fund's planned giving staff can help you determine which one is appropriate for you. They include:

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If your gift is \$10,000 or more, you may designate it for a preferred area of interest: Acquisitions, Advocacy & Activism, Membership, Trails, Education, Climbing Preservation Projects or Unrestricted. For more information on any of these options, contact Michael Lindsey, Access Fund development director, at 303-545-6772, ext. 103 or [michael@accessfund.org](mailto:michael@accessfund.org)



The Access Fund  
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your climbing future

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Local Climbing Organizations and Affiliates** (\*Denotes Affiliates)

A local climbing organization (LCO) is an organization, association, or access committee working primarily or exclusively to keep climbing areas open, conserve the climbing environment, and promote responsible climbing at the local or regional level. LCOs are the liaison between the climbing community and the land managers and owners for the crags within their region. Affiliates are LCOs who have joined the Access Fund Affiliate Program. If you are an LCO listed below and are not an Access Fund Affiliate, please contact Deanne Buck, grassroots coordinator at 303-545-6772 x112, or via E-mail at [deanne@accessfund.org](mailto:deanne@accessfund.org).

**Alabama**

Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**Arizona**

Arizona Mountaineering Club  
 Friends of Queen Creek\*  
 Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition\*  
 Tucson Climbers Association\*

**Arkansas**

Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**California**

Boulder Clean - Joshua Tree  
 Boulderling Group\*  
 Cragmont Climbing Club  
 Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition\*  
 Friends of Joshua Tree\*  
 San Diego Alliance of Climbers\*  
 Friends of Pinnacles  
 San Diego Climbers Coalition\*  
 Southern Sierra Climbers Association\*

**Canada**

Climbers Access Society of British  
 Columbia\*

**Colorado**

Action Committee for Eldorado\*  
 Colorado Springs Climbers Coalition  
 Flatirons Climbing Council\*

**Connecticut**

Ragged Mountain Foundation\*

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Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**Idaho**

Kootenai Climbers\*  
 Boise Climbers Alliance\*

**Illinois**

Illinois Climbers Association

**Iowa**

Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition\*

**Kentucky**

Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition\*  
 Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**Massachusetts**

Appalachian Mountain Club – Boston  
 Chapter\*  
 Western Massachusetts Climbers  
 Coalition\*

**Michigan**

Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition

**Missouri**

Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri\*

**Minnesota**

Minnesota Climbers Association\*

**Nevada**

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council\*

**New Mexico**

CRAG-New Mexico\*

**New Jersey**

Access NJ\*

**New York**

Gunks Climbers Coalition\*

**North and South Carolina**

Boone Climber's Coalition\*  
 Carolina Climbers Coalition\*  
 Pisgah Climbers Association\*  
 Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**Ohio**

Ohio Climbers Association

**Oklahoma**

Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition\*

**Oregon**

AAC - Oregon Section, Access  
 Committee\*  
 Mazamas  
 Smith Rock Climbers

**Pennsylvania**

Lancaster Climbing Club - Access  
 Project\*  
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**South Dakota**

Black Hills Climbers Coalition\*

**Tennessee**

Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**Texas**

Central Texas Mountaineers\*  
 Climbers of Hueco Tanks\*  
 Texas Mountaineers

**Utah**

Salt Lake Climbers Alliance\*

**Vermont**

CRAG-VT\*

**Washington**

Washington Climbers Coalition\*

**West Virginia**

New River Alliance of Climbers\*  
 Southeastern Climbers Coalition\*

**Wisconsin**

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