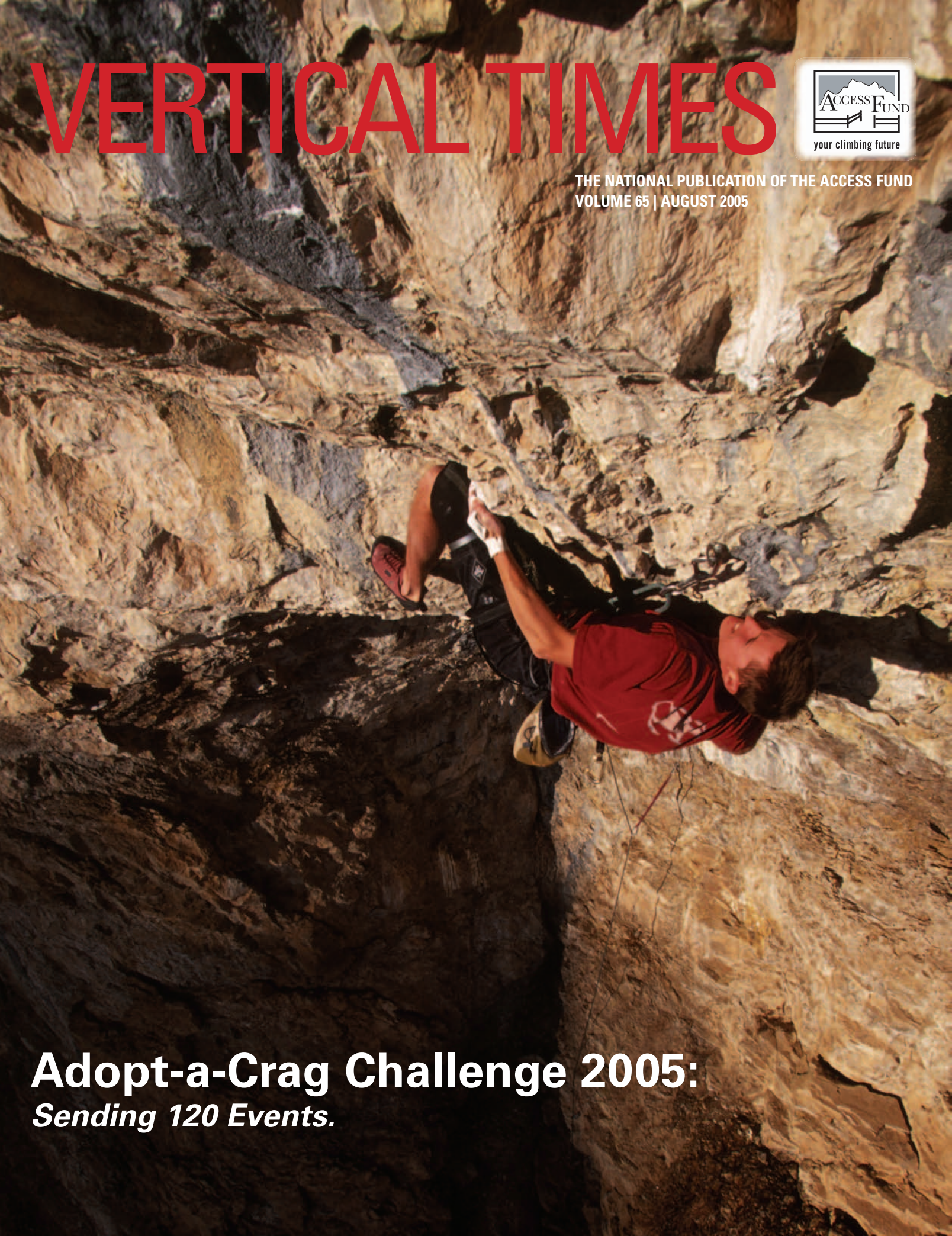


VERTICAL TIMES



THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND
VOLUME 65 | AUGUST 2005



Adopt-a-Crag Challenge 2005:
Sending 120 Events.

“We do not need to teach ethics. we need to live them



While traveling to New Hampshire for a meeting with New England area climbers last month I read these words in a magazine: We do not need to teach ethics we need to live them. It was not a climbing magazine and in fact had nothing to do with recreation but it struck me how important this message is for climbers and stewards of the rock, mountains and ice we all cherish. The ethics I speak of are not whether to use chalk, place fixed protection only on lead, or whether barefoot or shoed ascents are better. The ethics I speak of are more macro in focus.

It is the freedom to use the land for our own recreation and pursuits of passion while taking the responsibility for the conservation and long term stewardship of these lands. It is important to first

have a wide focus to guide our actions. As the volume of climbers increases so does our effect on the environment. Some level of change is expected but when is

Cover: Tommy Caldwell sets the stage for this year's Adopt-a-Crag Challenge on *Flex Luthor* (5.15a) at the Fortress, Colorado. See next page for more on Adopt-a-Crag.

it too much? How can our actions as climbers mitigate threats to the climbing environment and access? Careful and honest reflection of these questions will help guide the area-specific ethics we usually think of when we hear the word ethic.

We are all mentors whether we started climbing in the 1950's or last week. The actions we take are seen and practiced by many. Of course there is a continuum between retro-bolted roadside areas and wilderness but most climbing takes place somewhere in the middle, and it is up to all of us to set the standards and live our ethics.

We are the ones that affect and are affected by use which often does not take into consideration the long term stewardship of the environment. Many land agencies use environmental degradation as the main reason to limit access of any user group and we as climbers are often to blame by our own excess.

Living the ethic can start by attending your local Adopt-a-Crag or going to your next local climbing organization meeting. Once you understand what climbing means to you and others, you can do your part to affect the outcomes and long term survival of our mutual passion in a very positive way.

Steve Matous

Executive Director

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From the AF

Oak Flat, Oak Flat, Oak Flat. We know you've been hearing a lot from the Access Fund about Oak Flat, Arizona in recent months. We would like to clarify why this is an important issue that we deeply believe every climber, no matter where you live or climb, must get involved in.

The issue for climbers and the entire future of climbing is the precedent that will be set if Oak Flat is transferred out of public hands. Oak Flat has been federally protected since 1955 for recreational purposes. The vision that protected this land is now being dishonored and ignored.

From the beginning, the Access Fund has tried to work with Resolution Copper Company to find a solution that would allow responsible mining while honoring the importance of the vision that set Oak Flat aside for recreation. The copper company has kept its goal of acquiring Oak Flat alive by proclaiming their concern for climbers' needs. They hired climbers to develop a "replacement" climbing area on mostly public lands owned by U.S. taxpayers that could have been established by Arizona climbers, on their day off, exploring for untouched routes. Since most of these "new climbs" are already public property, the copper company's "good faith" offering is little more than a PR smokescreen while the important issue of negotiating an amicable solution for a recreational easement at Oak Flat remains unfinished.

We need to fight the loss of Oak Flat and what it represents and forget about the copper company's hired climbers who do not represent the climbing community or the public's interest.

Consider the slippery slope. What if someone finds oil under Indian Creek or a large gold deposit under Half Dome? These scenarios may seem unbelievable but go back to the idea of precedent. If a foreign company can side-step federal protections in Arizona what about a domestic company or Congress? What happens when we've developed away our national treasures?

At the root of Oak Flat lies not only the future of climbing but the future of all public land conservation and the preservation of your recreational opportunities. Stand up with the Access Fund and Friends of Queen Creek in this struggle to prevent the loss of Oak Flat; This is your last chance to add your voice. Don't wait for this bill to go through Congress unamended before you get angry. WRITE CONGRESS NOW! We all share responsibility for the future of climbing. See accessfund.org for letter writing information.

NE Regional Access Workshop, North Conway, NH

The Access Fund hosted a regional climbing access workshop in North Conway, NH on June 25. The workshop was a forum to discuss threats and issues affecting climbing access in the local / New England region, an opportunity to explore various methods of resolving access threats, and an opportunity for the AF to connect with local climbing activists. Items discussed at the work-

shop included: USFS Forest Plan revision; Updates from State Parks – possible changes in management; private Land – area on land owned by a local land trust, purchase of lands, liability issues; stewardship; building relationships within the climbing community, ethics, self-regulation; parking problems at crags; ancillary impacts – trails, infrastructure and land manager concern with new-route development; selective fees – singling out climbers, discriminatory fees; lack of scientific understanding of effects on environment.

Fall Activist Forum, Carbondale, IL

Initial planning for a fall activist forum is underway. The forum will take place near Carbondale, IL and will coincide with the AF Board Meeting the weekend of Oct. 22. Similar to our forums and workshops in the past, this gathering will have a regional focus, with LCO representatives and activists being invited from the surrounding states of IN, MN, MI, OH, KY, TN, AR, MO IA, and WI.

Adopt-a-Crag Challenge 2005

From Alaska to Georgia, Maine to California, Adopt-a-Crag is captivating the country like a superhero. While we might not all climb like Batman, Batwoman, or even Tommy Caldwell, together we will attempt to climb the 120 feet of **Flex Luthor** (metaphorically speaking of course because, umm, Flex Luthor is Tommy's 5.15a superhuman route) where each foot is represented by an Adopt-a-Crag event. From over-the-head kneebars, hand jams, finger locks, and thumbstacks, we all bring our own expertise that will enable us to jointly climb the incipient crack. **To date we have 50 Adopt-a-Crags;** we are swinging from side to side, and like a kid on a swing we kick to gain momentum, stab a foot high and right, and pull up into the next kneebar. We are almost halfway up the superhuman route! As with all visions for success, we can't do it alone. We need the entire climbing community to join in this effort. Through a communal effort we can top-out and become the adventure heroes we have always known we are.

How can you do your part to help the climbing community reach the anchors? Easy, grab a friend and plan a clean-up at your favorite crag. Be it your posse of 10 or the entire town, you can organize an Adopt-a-Crag and give back to the places that continually give all of us so much.

To download an Adopt-a-Crag manual, visit: accessfund.org/adopt



2005 Adopt-a-Crag Events as of July 13

Register Your Event Now! It's Easy: accessfund.org/adopt

AK

08/13 Anchorage, AK, Seward Highway Adopt-a-Crag

AL

09/10 Birmingham, AL, Sandrock Adopt-a-Crag (9:30 am CST)
09/17 Griffin Falls, AL, Griffin Falls Adopt-a-Crag 2005 (9am CST)
09/24 Jamestown Climbing Preserve, AL, Jamestown Adopt-a-Crag

AR

10/01 Haw Creek, AR, Petra's Annual Adopt-a-Crag

AZ

09/24 Flagstaff, AZ, Trail Work at the Pit
10/01 Phoenix, AZ, Queen Creek Clean-Up and Celebration

BC

09/10 Vancouver, BC, Squamish Adopt-a-Crag

CA

07/23 Sequoia National Forest, CA, Buck Rock Lightning Renovation Project
09/04 Arcata, CA, Moonstone Beach Clean-Up
09/17 Los Gatos, CA, Castle Rock State Park Adopt-a-Crag
09/17 Santa Barbara, CA, Crag Clean-Up at Lizard's Mouth
09/24 Chatsworth, CA, Stoney Point Clean-Up
10/01 Riverside, CA, Riverside Rock Quarry Adopt-a-Crag
11/19 Joshua Tree, CA, Joshua Tree Adopt-a-Crag

CO

09/14 Boulder, CO, Flagstaff Trash Bash
09/15 & 17, Eldorado Springs, CO, Celebrate Eldorado
09/24 & 25 Canon City, CO, 13th Annual Shelf Road Volunteer Weekend
10/01 Castlewood Canyon, CO, 3rd Annual Castlewood Canyon Cleanup
10/29 - 11/1 Golden, CO, Table Mountain Adopt-a-Crag and Trail Project

CT

09/10 Plainville, CT, Pinnacle Rock Clean-up

GA

09/10 Lafayette, GA, Lost Wall Adopt-a-Crag

ID

09/10 Pocatello, ID, Ross Park Climbing Area Clean-Up and Trail Maintenance
09/10 Post Falls, ID, North Idaho Adopt-a-Crag at Q'emilin Park

KY

08/06 Red River Gorge, KY, 1st Annual John Bronaugh & Alex Yeakley Memorial Adopt-a-Crag Day

MA

09/17 Middlesex, MA, Bolton Quarry Celebration and Adopt-a-Crag
09/18 Boston, MA, Quincy Quarries Clean-Up
09/24 Ashfield, MA, Chapel Ledge Trail Day

MD

09/24 Carderock, MD, Carderock Adopt-a-Crag

ME

09/30 Clifton, ME, Clifton Crags Adopt-a-Crag

MN

09/11 Tettegouche State Park, MN, North Shore Adopt-a-Crag

MO

09/06 Columbia, MO, Capen Park Clean-Up

NC

09/10 Looking Glass Rock, NC, Looking Glass Rock Adopt-a-Crag
09/24 Hanging Rock State Park, NC, Moore's Wall Locals Day

NH

tba North Conway, NH, Cathedral/Whitehorse Ledges Climbing Access and Trail Reconstruction

NJ

10/01 & 2 Allamuchy, NJ, NJ Adopt-a-Crag at Allamuchy State Park

NM

09/10 Sitting Bull Falls, NM, Annual Sitting Bull Falls Clean-Up Day

NY

09/24 New Paltz, NY, Peterskill Adopt-a-Crag

OR

09/04 Rabbit Ears National Forest, OR, Rabbit Ears Reanchoring Project
09/10 Rocky Butte, OR, Rocky Butte Rendezvous
09/17 Bend, OR, Meadow Climbing Clean-Up
09/25 Lewis & Clark State Park, OR, Clean-Up at Broughton's Bluff
10/01 Ashland, OR, Rattlesnake Cleanup

RI

tba Lincoln Woods, RI, Lincoln Woods Clean-Up

TN

10/08 Lookout Mountain, TN, Sunset Rock Adopt-a-Crag

UT

09/24 Logan Canyon, UT, Logan Canyon Adopt-a-Crag and Public Lands Day
10/15 & 10/16 Indian Creek, UT, Indian Creek Adopt-a-Crag

VA

09/10 McClean, VA, Great Falls Park Adopt-a-Crag, part of Washington DC Area Adopt-a-Crag Weekend
09/25 Hone Quarry Recreation Area, VA, Friends of George Washington National Forest Adopt-a-Crag at Hidden Rocks

WV

10/08 & 10/09 Morgantown, WV, Coopers Rock Climbers Restoration Project

WY

09/10 Cody, WY, Shoshone River Canyon Clean-Up





Jason Keith

WEST



Washington Climbers Coalition Update

(By Matt Perkins, President)

The Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC) was founded in Spring 2004 with the support and a grant from the Access Fund. The organization is a coalition of various interest groups in the Washington rock climbing community, including climbers who practice different styles of climbing or who may have different views on varying issues. The WCC seeks to help climbers address public relations, environmental, bolting and access issues so that we can maintain a diversity of climbing opportunities around the state. In the first year of the organization's existence, the WCC:

- successfully raised over \$14,000 from over 150 individual donors who supported the purchase and preservation of 40 acres near Leavenworth, where a property containing excellent crags and boulders, including access to the magnificent Icicle Creek canyon, was threatened by development
- waged a successful campaign to convince the Forest Service to maintain the road serving the Darrington climbing area in western Washington for another year
- helped resolve two bolting conflicts and climber-perception issues in both eastern and western Washington
- undertook trail maintenance and installation of an information kiosk

In recent years, other recreational interest groups, made up of equally varied user populations, have been better organized than climbers and, as a result, forest planners and other land managers have often put the interests of hunters, kayakers, horseback riders, mountain bike riders, and off-road vehicle enthusiasts ahead of rock climbers. Various new trails and other facilities have been developed for horseback riding, mountain biking, or off-road vehicles, while roads serving longstanding climbing areas are closed or go un-maintained for lack of funding. The recent Darrington campaign is an example of what we can accomplish if we join together: our letters and telephone calls resulted in a closed access road being reopened. Many Washington climbing areas could benefit from having more organized and locally based climber's groups, and the WCC hopes to encourage more climbers to get involved in

such efforts.

The WCC is proud of their accomplishments in their first year of operation. For more information, visit www.washingtonclimbers.org.

Act Now. Urgent Request for Public Input on the Future of Madrone Wall, Oregon

(By Keith K. Daellenbach)

Write a letter to the Clackamas County Commissioners and County Parks Advisory Board today to save Madrone Wall forever. Madrone Wall, an amazing geological treasure, located on the edge of the Portland metropolitan area has been closed to rock climbing since the fall of 1997 when the Clackamas County embarked on an ill-conceived plan to quarry the site. Recent developments at Clackamas County have set the County Parks Department and its citizen-led Parks Advisory Board (PAB) in motion to meet with community organizations, private rock quarries, to judge interest in mining the site versus establishing this unique site as a park. By late October 2005, the PAB will make a recommendation on the future of the Madrone Wall to the Board of Commissioners.

Now is the time to make your voice heard. Even with all the good will and activity generated in the last six months to elevate the awareness, to date, only a few dozen people have written or emailed the Commissioners. Please take a moment to write your own letter or modify the sample letter at www.savemadrone.org and mail or email it to the Commissioners and help us save this treasure for all time.

Send your letters to:

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Bill Kennemer
Commissioner Martha Schrader
Commissioner Larry Sowa
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, Oregon 97045
bcc@co.clackamas.or.us

For more information on the Save Madrone efforts, contact Keith at 503/691-4102 or kdaellenbach@att.net



Marion Hutchison

CENTRAL



New Climbing Organization Formed in Oklahoma

(By Aaron Gibson)

Oklahoma climbers joined together this spring to create the Chandler Park Climbers Coalition (CPCC). The CPCC is a nonprofit advocacy and conservation group dedicated to creating and maintaining sustainable opportunities for responsible climbing in and around Chandler Park.

Chandler Park is a diverse recreational county park, home to everything from baseball diamonds, a disc golf course, a swimming pool, and picnic areas, to - most importantly - rock climbing. The corridors of limestone walls enveloped by trees reach as high as twenty-five feet and are perfect for bouldering and top-roping. In addition to the regulars, Chandler Park draws climbing classes and groups, many of them new to climbing. Therefore, climber education is a key concern. Chandler Park is an urban climbing area in every sense, which means that issues like trash, broken glass, and graffiti are also an issue.

The CPCC has developed a great working relationship with the Tulsa County Parks department and is in the process of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as well as several ambitious projects. The CPCC anticipates developing educational brochures, constructing a climber kiosk, and holding a bouldering festival by year's end. The CPCC held their first event, the Clean and Climb day, on June 4, 2005.

CPCC membership is free and open to the public. For more info, see <http://cpcc.fusionfortyseven.com/climb>

Wisconsin Outdoor Access Update

(By Jesse Bond)

After a small hiatus, Wisconsin Outdoor Access (WOA) has resurfaced with a new mission: to work proactively toward maintaining access to existing climbing areas and prevent potential closures from ever happening.

Presently WOA is working to revitalize the organization's grassroots base of support throughout the state and build positive relationships with land managers in climbing

areas. We hope to rebuild our organization and establish a presence through fundraising, membership drives, and volunteer projects. We have chosen to center our efforts at Devil's Lake State Park (DLSP) as it is an extremely popular destination for climbers in the upper Midwest. Since access is not currently threatened at DLSP, it is a good opportunity for WOA to establish and maintain contacts with state land managers before conflicts develop, keeping in line with our desire to work proactively on access issues. It is our hope that these relationships will go a long way toward conserving access at Devil's Lake State Park and in other areas of the state.

Recent cutbacks in the state budget diminished DLSP resources and the park staff welcomed volunteer efforts from WOA. We helped with the garlic mustard eradication project - the invasive species continues to threaten native flora of the park. Local climbers are helping to halt its progress this year in addition to establishing a long term partnership with DLSP naturalists to prevent its future spread. We are currently in contact with park staff to organize more such volunteer projects, including trail and facility maintenance.

By uniting conscientious and passionate climbers from all parts of the state, we hope to provide, on the regional level, a strong voice for Wisconsin's active community of outdoor enthusiasts and establish WOA as the local authority on climbing and issues regarding its access, safety, and ethics. Toward the goal of building existing membership, we are presently planning social gatherings centered around the crags at Devil's Lake. Keep your eyes peeled for a beer and brats event sometime this summer!

If we can build WOA into an organization that unites the many climbers of the upper Midwest we can work together to maintain the integrity of climbing in this state. WOA plans to support the climbing infrastructure through service projects at our favorite crags and build enough of a presence to speak out on access issues. We'd also love to have a great time while doing so, and in said manner we hope to realize our vision.

For more information, contact Phil Kerckoff, president of Wisconsin Outdoor Access, at philk@merr.com or 608-712-2003.



Steve Bair

Rumbling Bald Update, North Carolina

(By Sean Cobourn, AF Regional Rep and CCC President)

In 2003, representatives of the Carolina Climbers Coalition, Access Fund, The Nature Conservancy and several local land trusts formed an informal working group to discuss the future of Rumbling Bald, one of the finest climbing areas in the Southeast. These discussions and much behind the scenes lobbying bore fruit in May of 2005, when NC Governor Mike Easley signed legislation authorizing formation of a new state park in Hickory Nut Gorge, the centerpiece of which would be Rumbling Bald. The bill did not authorize funding though, so the CCC has launched a "Bald Is Beautiful" fund raising campaign to help pay for the purchase of the many private tracts which make up the mountain. Presently about \$10,000 has been raised by local climbers to help protect this multi-use area. Donations are welcome. More information may be found at the CCC website: www.carolinaclimbers.org.

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Shenandoah National Park is preparing to embark on an extensive cliff research and management project that is expected to last three years. The project will assess and evaluate cliff conditions throughout the Park and develop and implement management strategies to protect cliff resources while providing for the visitor recreation experience. Natural and cultural resource conditions at approximately 50 cliff sites will be inventoried, and impacts occurring to those sites will be closely monitored. From this information the Park will work with various stakeholders (such as the Access Fund and local climbers, native plant groups, etc.) to create and implement a plan to address cliff management. The Park is currently very concerned with the destruction of globally rare vegetation communities at several places in the park, including what they perceive as "significant damage" at Little Stoney Man cliffs and Old Rag Mountain. Shawn Tierney, Access Fund access and acquisitions director, recently met with the project lead, Steve Bair in June to look at several of the more popular climbing sites to discuss the project.

The AF is concerned with the proposed scope, cost and overall implications of the cliff management project at Shenandoah, and it intends to monitor this study and the management plan closely.

Update on the Boone Climbers Coalition, North Carolina

(By Anthony Love, Boone Climbers Coalition)

The Boone Climbers Coalition (BCC) has been very active recently with cleanups, fundraisers, and community-building events. This spring, members of the BCC per-

formed cleanups at the DOT rest area near the Blowing Rock boulders and at Howard Knob Park. In addition to the annual spring clean-up of Howard Knob Park, the BCC donated funds to the park for a new sign.

While the Knob is still closed to climbing, the BCC feels that continued support of the county parks and conservation of the climbing environment exhibit climbers' stewardship ethic and commitment to the local community. The BCC also continues to work with the National Park Service to determine the direction of future management for the Blue Ridge Parkway, and has donated funds to the Carolina Climbers Coalitions in support of their efforts to turn Rumbling Bald into a new state park. To learn more about the Boone Climbers Coalition, visit ncbouldering.com/BCC.htm

Daniel Boone National Forest and Red River Gorge, KY

(By Bill Strachan, RRGCC President)

In 2004 the Daniel Boone National Forest adopted a new Forest Plan that presents both opportunities and challenges for Kentucky climbing. Due to climber input, the new Forest Plan generally allows climbing to continue and sets a goal to provide additional climbing opportunities. The Daniel Boone National Forest also initiated a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process for the Red River Gorge and hired an LAC Coordinator. The two-year LAC process is expected to be completed sometime in 2006.

In addition, the Red River Gorge area has been designated as an archaeological district. Conflicts between newly identified archaeological sites and existing climbs have already resulted in additional temporary route closures. Specific route closure information is posted at rrgcc.org

The "Military Wall Cliffline Protection and Restoration Project" now being planned by the Forest Service would protect existing archaeological resources, while allowing a number of routes now under temporary closure to be reopened at the popular Military Wall crag. In 1998 the RRGCC and the Forest Service participated in a cooperative trail project at Military Wall funded in part with an Access Fund grant and in 2001, funded by another Access Fund grant, the RRGCC and the Forest Service cooperated in conducting an archaeological excavation at this crag. More information on both the LAC process and Daniel Boone National Forest planning and projects can be found on the fs.fed.us/r8/boone/

The biggest victories at the Red have come from RRGCC's "If we own it, they can't close it" approach. January 20, 2005 marked the one year anniversary since the RRGCC purchased the 700 acre Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve securing access to a number of existing crags with well over 100 existing routes. In August 2004 the RRGCC began development of the previously untouched Sore Heel Hollow area of the property. So far five new crags with over 50 new sport routes have been established. With a pricetag of nearly \$30,000, monetary support through RRGCC membership, tax exempt donations, and business sponsorship is crucial to continuing the RRGCC's mission to secure access on both public and private land. To become a member of the RRGCC or contact them, visit rrgcc.org

NORTHEAST



Negotiations Under Way for New Bouldering Area, Rosendale, NY: Climbers Advise to Comply with No Trespassing Request

(By Chris Moratz)

On June 6th, following several months of private discussions with Rosendale town officials, the Gunks Climbers' Coalition made its first public presentation to the town board to explore permitting legal access to the Water Works bouldering area. The parcel, discovered by boulderers last year, exists on Rosendale Water District property, where a no trespassing ordinance exists. The site is significant enough that growing publicity and usage of the area had attracted complaints by neighbors, warranting an access strategy developed by boulderers with the Access Fund and the GCC beginning in February; climbers immediately agreed to cease all climbing activity at the site.

While the initial presentation generated its share of discussion and concerns from board members- liability and trespassing being the chief concerns - the board was interested enough to advise that the GCC present to the town's Water District board, which the GCC did on Monday, June 27th. Negotiations between the GCC, the Rosendale town officials and the water department are continuing and are expected to continue at least until this Fall or the end of the year. Until some sort of agreement is in place climbers are advised to respect the no trespassing ordinance that has been in effect, and avoid going to this area.

What can you do to help?: Please comply with the no trespassing request and contact gcc@gunksclimbers.org.

anchors Vandalized in Massachusetts

(By Jeff Squire)

The anchors at two Western Massachusetts climbing areas - Mormon Hollow and Farley Ledges - were vandalized again. In addition to scarring the rock, such behavior harms the environment, access, and community.

In late May, 15 sets of anchors and face bolts on three routes were destroyed at Mormon; two weeks later, four sets of anchors at Farley were similarly mutilated. All the studs and hangers were stolen, the Rawl sleeves were hammered into the bolt holes, and the glue-in anchors were flattened with a sledge. In some cases, the rock surrounding the holes was shattered. Perhaps most disturbing was that the Farley demolition was perpetrated during the Peregrine Falcon closure.

This has happened before. Mormon was the scene of a sustained bolt-war in the early nineties. Farley and the Sunbowl, another local crag, have also been clandestinely chopped. Who or what is served by such behavior? Not

the rock; not the community.

The Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition (WMCC) was born four years ago, in part to respond to this issue. The WMCC has worked hard since its' inception to gain back the respect and trust of the local landowners who own the community's crags. The WMCC has made great progress in establishing a responsible, stewardship-minded approach towards the management of several of these crags. As a result, climbing here has seen resurgence over the past couple of years. The WMCC has introduced the Access Fund's Adopt-a-Crag initiative to the area, worked to improve trails, and conserved the climbing environment. As part of this commitment, the WMCC began to restore many of the routes that had been previously been chopped. During the past 3 years, dozens of anchors were replaced and routes restored. Where possible, the original bolt holes were utilized.

In short, the recent defacing of the rock by one individual is not really about bolts; the issues are stewardship, community consensus, and conservation. Just as Yvon Chouinard inspired us to drop the piton hammers in order to conserve the rock for tomorrow's climbers, responsible stewards recognize how the judicious use of anchors can reduce the environmental impact of climbing. The Mohonk Preserve and the Obed are just two examples; they have begun placing rap anchors near the most popular climbs in an effort to save the trees, cliff lines, and climbers.

Access in the Northeast is often tenuous. Many times the parking lot, trail, and crag lie across a patchwork of public and private land. And of all the issues which sour landowners to climbers, broken, pockmarked rock by climbers is the hardest to explain. Fortunately, the Western Massachusetts Climbers' Coalition earned the respect and trust of the landowners. Together they came to the agreement that secretly removing bolts and scarring the rock was not acceptable. And together they came to the agreement that anyone believed to be engaged in that behavior was not welcomed at the crags or on the land and would be ticketed for violating a No Trespassing order. This collaboration and cooperation with the private landowners was key to WMCC's success. But for the work and reputation of the WMCC, things could easily have turned out differently.

What can you do? Ask your friends to join the WMCC, volunteer, come to the 3rd Annual WMCC Bar-B-Q, or write the WMCC and let them know what you think.

Editors Note: To see the Access Fund (AF) position on "removing bolts" visit <http://accessfund.org/advo/irres.php>

THANKS

Thank you to all Access Fund Regional Coordinators. You are the face of the Access Fund on the local and regional level, and your contribution to the vision of the Access Fund is invaluable. Thank you to all Access Fund Affiliates. Together, we are making a difference in climbing access and conservation. Randy Levensaler, for his generosity with his creativity. Darwin Arye, organizational consultant extraordinaire, for his insight and knowledge and willingness to share. EMS for hosting a social event and all of the participants of the recent Access Fund workshop and Joe Lentini. Check the latest Access Fund events at accessfund.org/events/events.php

EVENTS

To streamline the events process, the AF has created a new page on the website under the EVENTS tab where interested people or groups can complete a webform for their event. If your event qualifies, membership materials and goodies may be sent additionally. All events the AF is involved with will be included on the event schedule. The deadline for event registration is one month prior to event. To register an event, visit: accessfund.org/events/index.php/

STAFF UPDATE

After five years as the Publications Director for the Access Fund, John Heisel is leaving the Fund. During his tenure, he designed 31 *Vertical Times*, launched the *AFE-News* and worked on two website redesigns. Heisel will stay in Boulder, Colorado and anticipates writing more short stories, photography and time in the vertical realm.

SPOTLIGHT: It's Not What Your Crag Can Do for YOU, But what YOU Can Do for Your Crag

Ahh, if life were only about basking in the sun, catnip, and scratch poles . . . It is often said that organizing climbers is like herding cats. Most climbers I know are the self-reliant sort who nurture a colorful and unconstrained individuality. We have our posse and that is enough community for us, thank you very much. We climb to get AWAY from the status quo, the Joneses. We climb to simplify, not complicate, our lives. How can we contribute to the greater whole of the climbing community when our daily lives are so insular? How can we give back to the places that give us so much? Easy.

Spotlighter says:

- Attend a local Adopt-a-Crag. If there isn't one at your favorite area, then organize one (it's painless).
- Be proactive about the world you live in and the crags you climb, speak up and speak out
- Hey, you can adopt your local crag every time you head out climbing by practicing minimum impact and taking ownership in your crags. It's all for the good of what we all love.

L8tr,
Spotlighter

Vertical Times, August 2005, volume 65.

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

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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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ACCESS FUND CORPORATE PARTNERS

These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the Future of Climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them.

This Month's Featured Partner

TITANIUM — \$50,000+

Haynes and Boone LLP — 2003

DIAMOND PLUS — \$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment — 1991
REI — 1991

DIAMOND MEDIA — \$20,000+

Backpacker Magazine — 2004
Climbing — 1991
Rock & Ice — 1993
Urban Climber Magazine — 2004

PLATINUM — \$10,000+

CLIF Bar — 1995
Eastern Mountain Sports — 1993
Mountain Gear — 1995
Patagonia — 1992
Petzl/Charlet Moser — 1991
prAna — 1995
The North Face — 1995

GOLD PLUS — \$7,500+

Archer Law Offices P.C. — 2003
Boulder Rock Club/Colorado Mountain School — 1996
GORE-TEX® products — 1991
Nalgene — 1992

GOLD — \$5,000+

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Campmor — 1991
La Sportiva — 1994
Mammut USA — 1991
MSR/Therm-a-Rest — 1995
New England Ropes - Maxim — 1992
Omega Pacific — 1992
Outdoor Research — 1999
The Spot Bouldering Gym — 2003
Trango USA & Stonewear Designs — 1992
Weathered Stone — 1999

SILVER — \$2,500+

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Arc'teryx — 1998
BlueWater — 1992
FalconGuides — 1998
Gregory Mountain Products — 1993
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Touchstone Climbing Inc. — 1998

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Cloudveil — 1998
Crazy Creek Products — 1992
Gripped: The Climbing Magazine — 2004
Lowe Alpine Systems — 1991
Montrail — 2002
Phoenix Rock Gym — 1997
Planet Granite Climbing Gyms — 2004
Redpoint, Inc. — 2000

Revolution Climbing — 1998

Rock and Snow, Inc. — 2003

Schwartz Communications, Inc. — 2003

SuperTopo.com — 2003

Thule — 2003

Yates Gear — 1993

CONTRIBUTING — \$500+

Advanced Base Camp — 1992
Adventure Guide Pakistan — 2005
Alpine Ascents International — 1998
Anker Climbing Equipment — 2003
Avery Brewing Company — 1998
AZ on the Rocks — 2003
Bearing Images — 2000
Eagle Creek — 2005
Excalibur DMM/Wild Country/Red Chili USA — 1995
Extreme Engineering — 2004
Five Ten — 2004
Flannel Design — 2001
Fox Mountain Guides and Climbing School — 2005
Higher Ground Roasters — 2003
Julbo — 2005
JustRopes.com — 2004
Kind Coffee — 2003
Kristin Carpenter Public Relations — 2003
Matrosch Inc.- AustriAlpinUSA — 2005
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Mountaineers Books — 1992
Mountainsmith — 2003
NEice.com — 2005
Nicros — 1997
Osprey — 2003
Outland Mountain Shop — 2003
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym — 1995
PMI — 1991
Portland Rock Gym — 2005
Real Cheap Sports — 2003
Saltic Climbing/Trekking — 2003
Sherrill Tree & Climbing Supply — 2005
Sickle Climbing — 2001
Stone Age Climbing — 1997
Stone Moves — 2005
Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000
Travel Country Outdoors — 2002

MEDIA PARTNERS

Alpinist — 2003
Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine — 1997
Camp4.com — 2002
Coreyography — 2002
Dan Bailey Photography — 2002
DrTopo.com — 2003
GetBeta.com — 2004
Integrity 7 Productions — 2004
Lenticular Pictures — 2005
Michael Clark Photography — 2004
Nathan Welton Photography — 2005
Patitucci Photo — 2003
Second Chance Films — 2004
Sender Films — 2005
Sharpend Publishing — 2004
She Sends — 2004
SNEWS — 2002
Stark Contrast Photography — 2005

Editor's Note: Each edition we will highlight a partner that has gone above and beyond in keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.

Black Diamond™

Black Diamond is a partner that truly understands the importance of your climbing future.

Since 1989 Black Diamond has "devoted [their] energy toward the goal of creating a company which fosters the enthusiasm and dreams necessary to design and manufacture the best climbing and skiing gear in the world." The dreaming and energy that is the root of their cutting edge design and technology also assures that we always have places to play. After all, without the latter there is no need for gear.

Black Diamond is about more than just making great gear. Corporate matching of employee Access Fund memberships, devoting catalog space to discussing the importance of the Access Fund mission, being the first company in the outdoor industry to step up in saving Castle Rock, supporting a big list of non-profit causes; these are just the tip of the iceberg. Check out bdel.com for more.

Call it corporate responsibility, walking the walk, passion, or commitment. It's all of those plus a huge dose of vision. Vision in the future of climbing.

Thanks BD!

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Access Fund Members Take 10% off of all merchandise!

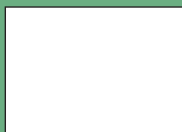
Climbing without your Access Fund T-shirt? Designed by Jeremy Collins. Printed on Patagonia Bene-Tees.



Men's T
Blue or Black
S-XL
\$20 (member price \$18)



Women's T
Green Tea
S-L
\$20 (member price \$18)



Piton Bottle O-Pin-er
\$8 (member price= \$7.00)

ITEM	COLOR	SIZE	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
Men's Access Fund T-shirt	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Women's Access Fund T-shirt	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Piton Bottle O-Pin-er	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
North Face Redpoint Jacket	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SUB TOTAL:					_____
TAX: (CO RESIDENTS ONLY - 2.33%)					_____
SHIPPING: (\$5 for 1st item + \$.50 each additional item)					_____
TOTAL:					\$ _____

(Make checks payable to Access Fund or enter your credit card info below)

Visa / MC / Discover / AMEX: _____ Exp. date: _____

Please enter YOUR SHIPPING ADDRESS: _____

MAIL form to: Access Fund PO Box 17010 Boulder, CO 80308

Order ONLINE: <https://www.accessfund.org/secure/gear.pl>

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If your membership is current, please pass this form on to a friend.

DONATION LEVEL

- \$35
- \$50/ Access Fund T-Shirt
- \$100/ AF Shirt & Trango Chalkbag
- \$250/ AF Shirt & Outdoor Research Pullover
- \$500/ AF Shirt & 1 year sub to *Alpinist* Mag
- \$1000/ AF Shirt & North Face Tadpole Tent
- Other \$ _____

New Renewal

Membership or gift for: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Credit Card#: _____

Exp. Date: _____

NO THANKS, keep the gift and use 100% of my donation for your work.



Circle style/size:
Men's S M L XL
Women's S M L



Circle size:
S M L XL



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Join/Renew/Give a gift ONLINE:
[accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php](https://www.accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php)

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. LCOs are the liaison between the climbing community and their local land managers and land owners. Affiliates are LCOs who have joined the Access Fund Affiliate Program. If you are an LCO listed below and not an Access Fund Affiliate, please contact Deanne Buck, grassroots coordinator, at 303-545-6772 x112 or deanne@accessfund.org.

AL Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	GA Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	NC Boone Climbers Coalition* Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers*
AR Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	IA Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*	NH Rumney Climbers Association	SC Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
AZ Arizona Mountaineering Club Friends of Queen Creek* Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition* Prescott Climbers Coalition* Tucson Climbers Association*	ID Boise Climbers Alliance* Kootenai Climbers*	NJ Access NJ*	SD Black Hills Climbers Coalition*
CA Bigfoot Country Climbers' Association* Boulder Clean - Joshua Tree Bouldering Group* Cragmont Climbing Club Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition* Friends of Joshua Tree* Friends of Pinnacles San Diego Alliance of Climbers* San Diego Climbers Coalition* Southern Sierra Climbers Association*	IL Illinois Climbers Association	NM CRAG-New Mexico	TN Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
CN Climbers Access Society of British Columbia*	IN Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	NV Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council*	TX Central Texas Mountaineers* Climbers of Hueco Tanks* Texas Mountaineers
CO Action Committee for Eldorado* Colorado Springs Climbers Alliance* Flatirons Climbing Council* Northern Colorado Climbers Coalition*	MA Appalachian Mountain Club - Boston Chapter* Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition*	NY Gunks Climbers Coalition*	UT Salt Lake Climbers Alliance*
CT Ragged Mountain Foundation*	MI Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition	OH Ohio Climbers Association	VT CRAG-VT*
	MN Minnesota Climbers Association*	OK Chandler Park Climbers Coalition* Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition*	WA Washington Climbers Coalition*
	MO Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri* Kansas City Climbing Club*	OR AAC - Oregon Section, Access Committee* Mazamas Smith Rock Group*	WI Wisconsin Outdoor Access*
	MT Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition	PA Lancaster Climbing Club - Access Project*	WV Coopers Rock Regional Climbing Coalition* New River Alliance of Climbers* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*



your climbing future

The Access Fund
PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE
& KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP ACTIVE
TO RENEW, CALL 1-888-8MEMBER
OR VISIT ACCESSFUND.ORG/JOIN/INDIV/PHP