

# VERTICAL TIMES

The National Publication of the Access Fund  
Summer 12/Volume 94  
[www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)

## Life on the Road: An Interview with the Conservation Team

page 8



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? 6

STONEWALLED AT RIFLE FALLS 11

CRYSTAL CAVE: ACCESS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE 12



## At their best, nonprofit partnerships are similar to good climbing partnerships.

**A** great partner knows your strengths and weaknesses, as you know theirs, and climbing together draws upon

the team's collective assets. One person leads the offwidths; the other leads the steep pitches. Someone takes the runout 5.9; the other handles the difficult routefinding. The better the partnership, the less each individual has to prove to the other. Trust is high and communication is minimal, focused on the task at hand. If you're lucky, you achieve your objective, accomplishing much more than you ever could have on your own.

At their best, nonprofit partnerships are similar to good climbing partnerships. The Access Fund has had some victories that were largely our own, but much of our most important work has been in partnership with other organizations and entities.

At the national level, we've long partnered with the American Alpine Club (AAC) on national policy issues and, more recently, on land acquisitions for climber facilities. The New River Gorge campground project was made possible through our partnership, and just as we go to press on this issue of the *Vertical Times*, we're pleased to announce that the Access Fund and the AAC have acquired the Hueco Rock Ranch. This will benefit Hueco climbers and help maintain a facility that has long played a central role in climber relations with the park.

For the past five years, we've been working on national policy issues with other human-powered outdoor recreation advocacy groups through the Outdoor Alliance (OA). We recently convened a national partnership summit that brought together field staff and volunteers from each of the six OA groups, as well as representatives from state and federal land management agencies, to share stories of successful

working relationships from around the United States. It is critical to form partnerships with government entities that manage the land we climb on. By focusing on successful examples, we hope to inspire land managers to see these partnerships in a positive light.

On the local level, our most important partnerships are with our many local climbing organizations (LCOs). The Access Fund provides financial capital and transaction expertise for climbing area acquisitions, consulting and expertise on stewardship projects, access to important decision makers at federal land management agencies, and years of policy experience on climbing management planning. The LCOs provide the relationship building, on-the-ground labor, and extensive local knowledge and project expertise. Though the results aren't always immediately positive (see "Stonewalled at Rifle Falls" on page 11), national/local partnerships are a powerful way to work on behalf of climbing access and conservation.

When you support the Access Fund, you are buying into a huge network of partnerships, including national and local governments, advocacy organizations, and over 100 LCOs.

When we aren't worried about who gets credit but are instead focused on utilizing each organization's strengths to achieve the greatest good, we can get some pretty incredible results. We at the Access Fund strive to be a great partner and thank all those organizations working with us to keep climbing areas open and protected.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the VT. Thanks for your support!

See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Robinson".

**Brady Robinson**  
Executive Director



**ACCESS FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

*President*, Paul Fish, WA  
*Vice President*, Jamie McNally, TX  
*Treasurer*, Nancy Feagin, UT  
*Secretary*, Matt Compton, OR

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Mark Baum, VA  
 Katie Blackett, CO  
 John Evans, UT  
 Kenji Haroutunian, CA  
 Jonah Harrison, WA  
 Steve Johnson, CO  
 Richard S. Luskin, UT  
 Perry Norris, CA  
 Beth Rodden, CA  
 Mark Synnott, NH  
 Beaver Theodosakis, CA  
 Dirk Tyler, CO

**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Rick Accomazzo, CO  
 Larry Gustafson, TX  
 John Juraschek, NC  
 Michael Kennedy, CO  
 Armando Menocal, WY  
 Dave Rosenstein, NJ  
 Bill Supple, VT

**ACCESS FUND HEADQUARTERS**

**STAFF**

Brady Robinson  
*Executive Director*  
 303.545.6772 x101, brady@accessfund.org

Amy Daley  
*Business & Finance Manager*  
 303.545.6772 x107, daley@accessfund.org

Holly Smolenski  
*Communications & Marketing Director*  
 303.545.6772 x100, holly@accessfund.org

Jason Keith  
*Sr. Policy Advisor*  
 303.545.6772 x102, jason@accessfund.org

Leici Hendrix  
*Development Director*  
 303.545.6772 x106, leici@accessfund.org

Joe Sambataro  
*Access Director*  
 303.545.6772 x112, joe@accessfund.org

Ty Tyler  
*Stewardship Manager*  
 303.545.6772 x104, ty@accessfund.org

Hale Melnick  
*Membership Manager*  
 303.545.6772 x103, hale@accessfund.org

Dmitra Inteuse-Gideon  
*Office Manager*  
 303.545.6772 x104, dmitra@accessfund.org

Zachary Lesch-Huie  
*National Affiliate Director & Southeast Regional Director*  
 303.545.6772 x114, zachary@accessfund.org

R.D. Pascoe  
*Policy Director*  
 303.545.6772 x113, rd@accessfund.org

Jeff Young  
*Conservation Specialist*  
 720.310.0233, jeff@accessfund.org

**GENERAL COUNSEL**

Chris Archer



Cerre Francis on Corporate Hippy, Scout Lake, Uintas, UT | © Nathan Smith

**Stop the Presses!**  
 Access Fund and American Alpine Club purchase the Hueco Rock Ranch!  
 Visit [www.accessfund.org/hueco](http://www.accessfund.org/hueco) to learn more.

### Thanks to the Conservation Team

I just wanted to say thank you for helping get us all set up with the Access Fund—Jeep Conservation Team! Dave and Jeff were great guys to work with, and we could not have completed our project without their planning and direction.

— JOHN DOBBE, WISCONSIN CLIMBERS ASSOCIATION (WCA)

**AF:** John, you're very welcome. Dave and Jeff loved working with you guys!

### Joint Membership is Rad

Everyone is super excited to be able to offer joint membership to local climbers. This is a fantastic value to East Idaho climbers and a tremendous help to us in recruiting members.

— TROY NEU, EAST IDAHO CLIMBERS COALITION

**AF:** Troy, we're psyched to have East Idaho Climbers Coalition on board for joint membership and to offer Idaho climbers the opportunity to support both local and national climbing access.



The Access Fund wants to hear from you. Share your thoughts, ideas, and perspectives on access issues. Tell us what we're doing well. Tell us where we could improve. E-mail your comments to [holly@accessfund.org](mailto:holly@accessfund.org).

### I Just Donated—Why Has My Membership Expired?

I made a donation in May, but you guys just sent me a letter saying that my membership expired. Shouldn't my donation have given me a year membership?

— BOB DENNISMAN, CALIFORNIA

**AF:** Bob, many of our members give additional donations throughout the year above and beyond their membership dues. If you made your contribution through our "make a donation" form instead of the "renew your membership" form, then we would have assumed you were making an additional gift and not renewing your membership. But now that we know you were looking to renew, we can extend your membership through next May.

## Local Climbing Organization 101: Do I Need a 501(c)(3)?

Many LCOs begin as casual affiliations and grow into more formal organizations. A key step along that path is incorporating as a not-for-profit charitable organization in the LCO's state. But you might also be wondering if you need to seek 501(c)(3) status.

### Do we need to be a 501(c)(3) to be a nonprofit?

No! The term 501(c)(3) is simply an IRS tax status derived from the Internal Revenue Code. There are many registered nonprofit organizations (including other LCOs) that do not have 501(c)(3) status.

**So, what's the benefit of 501(c)(3) status?** With 501(c)(3) status, an LCO is eligible to apply for foundation and government grants, its donors' contributions are tax-deductible, it is afforded more liability protection, and it saves money on federal and state income taxes. Attaining 501(c)(3) status may also increase an LCO's credibility as a nonprofit organization, for the above reasons.

**What's the application process, and how do we comply?** There is an arduous application process, and you may have to defend your application. There's also a fee (approx. \$300-\$750). To comply, your LCO must file returns and keep adequate accounting records, as well as perform other significant responsibilities.

**Should we apply?** Does your LCO bring in enough money to have taxable income? Will current or future LCO activities and projects, including future land acquisition and ownership, need significantly greater financial support? If your LCO's board answered yes to these questions, then applying for 501(c)(3) status may be an appropriate progression for the organization.

**Does the Access Fund help with this process?** Yes! Contact us if you need assistance navigating this tricky topic. The Access Fund has a helpful publication on incorporation and tax exemption, and we can help guide you through the process.



### Wisconsin Climbers Association

The Wisconsin Climbers Association is advancing climbing access in popular areas like Devil's Lake and Governor Dodge. Through Adopt a Crag events, bouldering comps, and other stewardship activities, the WCA is forging great partnerships with WI State Parks. The WCA's proactive work continues to ensure that WI climbing access is secure. For more information, go to **wisconsinclimbersassociation.wordpress.com**.

### Thacher Climbing Coalition

Lying outside of Albany, New York, Thacher State Park offers miles of limestone cliff line, but climbing is not allowed. Local advocate Mike Whelan formed the Thacher Climbing Coalition (TCC) to approach the park about opening up climbing. With the Access Fund's support, the TCC conducted initial meetings with the park, presenting on climbing management, stewardship, and site-specific concerns. These meetings went well and were followed by site visits to the park's cliff. While the ultimate outcome is still to be determined, the TCC's long-term effort is ongoing.



### More Joint Membership Options with AF and Your Local Group

We are excited to welcome a new group of AF affiliates to our joint membership program. Climbers now can support local and national climbing organizations with a single membership with the following groups: Western Massachusetts Climbers' Coalition, Friends of Indian Creek, New River Alliance of Climbers, Southern Colorado CRAG, and East Idaho Climbers Coalition. Joint membership brings more resources to local climbing advocates and strengthens our national and local access work. Visit **www.accessfund.org/jointmembership** to learn more.

### Carolina Climbers' Coalition Rebolting at Pilot Mountain State Park

Building on strong partnerships with NC State Parks, SC State Parks, and local U.S. Forest Service agencies, the Carolina Climbers' Coalition (CCC) voluntarily replaced a great number of bolts and fixed anchors at Pilot Mountain State Park, Crowders Mountain State Park, and Whitesides in NC, and Table Rock State Park in SC. Old fixed anchors were removed and replaced with bombproof stainless steel bolts and hangers generously supplied by the American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA). Cheers to the CCC and the region's public land managers for continuing to successfully collaborate on climbing management.



To submit an update for your local climbing organization or area, contact Zachary Lesch-Huie at **zachary@accessfund.org**.



## What's Wrong with this Picture?

Can you spot the potential access concerns in this image? If you think you can name all of the factors in this image that could lead to an access issue, go to [www.accessfund.org/whatswrong](http://www.accessfund.org/whatswrong) and tell us what you see. If you can spot them all, we'll send you a special gift! ■





# STONE FORT Gets a Makeover

As one of the three locations known for hosting the Triple Crown Bouldering Series, Stone Fort/Little Rock City outside of Chattanooga, TN, boasts some of the best boulders in the Southeast. And its growing popularity has led to an increase in user impacts.

But thanks to the proactive efforts of three local groups—Rock/Creek (a Chattanooga-based outfitter), the nonprofit Wild Trails/Triple Crown Bouldering Series, and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC)—climbers and volunteers have rallied to mitigate these impacts. In November of 2010, Wild Trails/Triple Crown funded an environmental impact study of the Stone Fort area. The study revealed a few concerns, including areas of soil compaction and vegetation loss, sustained erosion, and social trails caused by climbers wandering from boulder to boulder.

Organizing an environmental study was an unprecedented effort for these organizations, which are seeking the “next level” of responsible land management. “This was the best way for climbers to proactively address and mitigate impact to our climbing area, and closely measure this impact over time,” says Chad Wykle, Triple Crown organizer, and board member of the SCC and Wild Trails.

Climbers used the results of the study to target several spots for improvement. And in early 2012, Wild Trails awarded additional grant money to help local climbers and volunteers purchase trees to combat erosion and vegetation loss, as well as flagstone to help define appropriate trails.

On March 17, 2012, the SCC helped gather volunteers for a trail day. More than a dozen volunteers came out to help and were instructed how to plant trees to mitigate erosion. They then lugged trees and equipment to the key sites in the Genghis Khan, Wave, Fire Crack, and Crescent areas. Volunteers in teams of two—one person with a mattock and the other with a shovel—dug holes, mixed in soil conditioner, placed trees at the right height, covered the roots, and surrounded the area with mulch.

With the help of several strong backs, large pieces of flagstone were installed to redefine the borders of green spaces surrounding the bouldering areas. The new trees



and landscaping made an immediate positive visual impact and will help mitigate erosion over time.

“This project set a high standard for climbing area stewardship,” says Access Fund Southeast Regional Director Zachary Lesch-Huie who joined the volunteer effort. “It was an incredibly successful trail day that will help manage climbing impacts long into the future.”

In all, 45 trees were planted and green spaces were defined in the Wave, Fire Crack, Crescent, Space, and Odyssey areas and the hillside below the Cable Route. For good measure, volunteers also planted several crepe myrtle trees along a flagstone walkway.

A huge thanks to the volunteers and organizations who donated their time and resources. ■

# LIFE ON THE ROAD

**Climbing Conservation Mobilized.** That's the mission. But what's life really like on the road for Dave Montgomery and Jeff Young, the duo of professional trail builders leading the Access Fund Conservation Team? Find out as Shane Jenks, one of our members, shares what he learned when he got the opportunity to interview Dave and Jeff.



**SHANE: Hey, it's Shane Jenks. I think you're expecting my call. Is now a good time to talk?**

DAVE: Hey, Shane. Yeah, hold on, we're going to pull over.

*[Fumbling noises ...]*

JEFF: Ok, we're good. We've got you on speaker phone so we can both hear.

**SHANE: Cool. So, you guys are the Access Fund Conservation Team. What's it like to be out there representing?**

JEFF: It's awesome. The local climbers are really excited to have us. People have a lot of positive energy when we're doing a project at their area. It's great to see.

DAVE: The work that we're doing—going around the country working on trails, meeting locals, and doing research for future projects—not only defines this new program, but it will pave the way for future teams. It's a really cool opportunity to spearhead this program for years to come.

**SHANE: What's your favorite part about the job?**

DAVE: Getting the chance to work with so many different people and learn about their local community. It's great to see so many people giving back to their climbing areas through stewardship and conservation.

JEFF: It's also great to have the chance to see so many world-class climbing areas throughout the U.S.,

as well as the smaller areas that I never would have gotten to see otherwise. And we get to leave a mark—whether it's a new trail or a set of stairs—that makes the area better.

**SHANE: What's the most challenging part?**

JEFF: We're only in an area for a few days. We get some climbing in, but we don't get much rest. People say, "Oh, you have the best job in the world"—and we do, but just when we get comfortable in the area and settle in, it's time to move on. It's hard to leave.

DAVE: Yeah, not getting the chance to rest is tough. We work really hard on a trail project, and when we're done, we want to get the most out of each area so we go climb. Most of the time our bodies are wrecked. But we wouldn't have it any other way.

JEFF: Agreed. We're not complaining. We do have the best job in the world.

**SHANE: So, you guys get to climb while you're on the road?**

DAVE: Yes, we try to milk every moment we can. Sometimes we only get in two pitches before we start work for the day.

JEFF: We try to tick off as many of the classics as we can in between work. We've done some amazing routes.





**SHANE: Dave, I heard you made a special point of taste testing Philly cheesesteaks in Philadelphia. How'd that go?**

DAVE: It was epic. That's all I can say.

JEFF: He ate three cheesesteaks in an hour, then promptly went into a food coma and got us lost. He was pretty much useless for the next 5-6 hours.

DAVE: Yeah, I think I did some permanent damage, but it was worth it.

**SHANE: You guys just spent four months in the Southeast. How was that?**

DAVE: I want to bring the Southeast back to Colorado! It was great.

Southern hospitality is alive and well. Everyone greeted us arms wide open. Being treated so well when you are out traveling is just unbelievable. It lightens the burden significantly.

JEFF: Agreed. Every stop on the Southeast tour was awesome.

**SHANE: Jeff, I heard you busted your foot while you were down there. How'd it happen, and how is it doing now?**

JEFF: We were climbing at Looking Glass in North Carolina. I got a little above my gear and got myself in an awkward position. I took a swing on a slab and hurt my foot pretty good.

The doctor ordered me off my feet for four weeks, so I headed back to Colorado to rest. But I'm 100% now. I can't even tell that I hurt it. It's good to be back.

DAVE: It's good to have him back.

**SHANE: You spend A LOT of time together. Don't you get sick of each other?**

DAVE: It's hard to feel down when you are traveling so much and seeing so many cool areas. All this time together hasn't had much effect on us.

JEFF: We sometimes have differences of opinion at projects, but we stop and are like, "Hold up, what are we doing?" We work through it. We're lucky that we get along great. I did have to ban Dave's shoes from the Jeep though.

**SHANE: Um, what do you mean?**

JEFF: Ok, so for like a week we would get in the Jeep and were like, "Oh my god, what is that smell?" It literally smelled like a rotting skunk in the backseat. We finally discovered that it was Dave's shoes, so I banned them to the trailer.

**SHANE: Is it hard living on the road? Do you miss home?**

JEFF: Yeah, but we stay so busy that it's hard to get too down about it. We're constantly moving, so that helps. But, yeah, it can kinda wear on you; I'm not going to lie.

DAVE: I miss having a bed.

**SHANE: Where do you guys sleep?**

DAVE: It depends. Sometimes we're in our tent or in the trailer. Lots of times one of the locals will offer up their climbing wall or garage. One time we slept on the side of the road. I was in the trailer and Jeff was in the Jeep.



**SHANE: Do you ever get a shower?**

JEFF: Sometimes we don't. We rely on the hospitality of the local climbers we meet on the road. More often than not (maybe because they smell us and feel bad for us), they invite us to their homes and feed us and let us clean up. The people have been great.

DAVE: My longest stretch without a shower was 12 days in Bishop. It wasn't pretty.

**SHANE: With that and Dave's shoes, the Jeep must smell awesome.**

DAVE: Oh, it's terrible. You don't want to know.

**SHANE: Speaking of the Jeep, how do you like your Patriot?**

JEFF: It's awesome. It's a really versatile vehicle. We work in some pretty rough terrain and it has been really capable. It's very agile and the turn radius is amazing—it navigates roads that a bigger vehicle would probably have trouble with. We are just about to pass the 25,000 mile mark and the thing is doing awesome.

**SHANE: Where are you headed now? What does the fall season hold for the Conservation Team?**

DAVE: We're on our way to the Northwest, with stops at Index, Lover's Leap, Unitas, then over to Montana, Bishop, and hopefully some work in Oregon.

**SHANE: What part of the country are you looking forward to the most?**

DAVE: I've never been to Washington, Oregon, or Montana, so I'm pretty excited to climb and see those areas.

JEFF: The projects we have lined up in the Northwest are pretty cool, so I'm definitely looking forward to that.

**SHANE: To wrap us up, what has been your favorite project so far?**

DAVE: Whippoorwill in the New River Gorge, hands down. We got to spend two weeks on a single project. It was by far the most devastated trail we worked on—people fell down the trail in 8-9 inches of mud on a daily basis—and was the most deserving



project we've done yet. We put in 30 steps, transforming a mud slide into a sustainable trail that will last forever.

**SHANE: Anything else you want to tell AF members?**

JEFF: If you see us around, come say hi! And if your climbing area needs help, let us know. You can submit a visit request on the website at [www.accessfund.org/ctvisit](http://www.accessfund.org/ctvisit).

**SHANE: Thanks for sharing, guys. Safe travels!**

DAVE: Yeah, man, no worries. Maybe we'll see you when we pass through Colorado. ■





## Stonewalled at Rifle Falls

Rifle Mountain Park is a beautiful limestone canyon just west of Rifle, Colorado, that offers incredibly gymnastic sport climbing. The unique combination of difficult climbs with easy approaches has drawn climbers to Rifle since the early 1990s.

Rifle Falls State Fish Hatchery (“Rifle Falls”) sits at the mouth of the canyon just downstream of Rifle Mountain Park and contains similar cliffs that have potential for new routes up to 5.15. Former Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) policy prohibits climbing at Rifle Falls. In July of last year, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado Parks merged to form the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission. The CPW Commission has the authority to allow climbing at Rifle Falls.

Last November, the Rifle Climbers’ Coalition (RCC) and Access Fund petitioned the CPW Commission to allow climbing at Rifle Falls. At a January 2012 meeting, the issue was keenly debated for nearly an hour, and the CPW Commission instructed previous DOW staff to investigate whether climbing could be allowed at Rifle Falls. The RCC and Access Fund offered their combined

climbing management expertise, provided examples of where climbing and wildlife thrive together, and sought to connect DOW staff with other wildlife biologists who have extensive experience managing climbing and wildlife. Prior to petitioning the CPW Commission, the RCC and Access Fund commissioned a biological survey of Rifle Falls and were ready to work with CPW on a plan to allow controlled development with limited access to only preapproved sections of cliff.

Anticipating possible concerns, the RCC and Access Fund came up with strategies to mitigate impacts, but DOW staff were reluctant to accept any such assistance.

The CPW Commission considered the issue again in May of this year—the Access Fund was allocated 30 minutes to present our proposal for how climbing might be balanced with other values and resources at Rifle Falls. Unfortunately, the CPW Commission did not seem interested in giving our proposal due consideration. The DOW staff dominated the discussion, and the CPW chairman allowed only six minutes for the Access Fund to rebut the DOW’s hour-plus presentation.

*A true public process did not take place, and climbers were treated unfairly.*

Had the RCC and Access Fund had the opportunity to fully present climbers’ case, and had the commission given our proposal due consideration, the outcome still might have been the same. Nonetheless, a true public process did not take place, and climbers were treated unfairly. The CPW Commission showed a clear bias toward the old Colorado Division of Wildlife’s view of recreation—treating any activities outside of hunting and fishing as highly suspect—despite its new mandate requiring a broader view of recreation including human-powered recreation in all its forms.

In June of this year, House Bill (HB) 12-1317 passed the Colorado legislature, creating a new CPW mission and reducing the number of voting CPW commissioners from 14 to 11.

On July 9, Governor John Hickenlooper announced the 11 new members of the CPW Commission. Hickenlooper reappointed seven former commissioners and appointed four new members.

Commissioners were selected to represent sportsmen and women, outdoor recreationalists, park users, and agricultural producers. The executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the commissioner of agriculture will continue to serve as ex-officio members.

The Rifle Climbers’ Coalition and Access Fund will again petition the newly appointed CPW Commission to allow rock climbing at Rifle Falls and propose solutions to the concerns DOW staff raised at the last meeting. Stay tuned to Access Fund e-news for updates [at www.accessfund.org/enews](http://www.accessfund.org/enews). ■



Outside of Los Alamos, New Mexico, in the Jemez Valley sits Crystal Cave—a deep cave carved of travertine, a type of limestone formed by mineral springs. It boasts difficult, overhanging routes with an abundance of pockets. And it's at risk of closure.

The cave is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as possibly being the location where the earliest dated food source in the Southwest was discovered. The Pueblo also believe that the cave may be an ancient burial site. And U.S. Forest Service archeologists recently raised the concern that climbing could be affecting these archaeological values.

At the heart of the controversy are more than 60 fixed chain draws that are creating a visual impact objectionable to both Forest Service archeologists and Pueblo members. As routes in the cave were developed, fixed chain draws were added for convenience, because the routes are too steep to clean while lowering. However, the Jemez Pueblo recently expressed a strong interest in something being done about the cave.

Local climbing organization New Mexico Climbers Resource and Advocacy Group (NM CRAG) met earlier this summer to discuss the pros and cons of removing the fixed gear. “We decided that proactively removing the fixed chain draws would be a show of good faith with the land managers and would remove the most offensive visual impact of climbing in the cave,” says Bryan Pletta, NM CRAG president.

Crystal Cave is unique in that the cave floor slopes up to follow the roof so that you are never much more than 25 feet off the deck, meaning that most, if not all, of the draws can be hung and removed with a stick clip. “Local climbers felt that if that is what it takes to save climbing in the cave, it was a compromise worth making,” says Pletta.

So, in early June, NM CRAG volunteers worked with the original route developers to remove the fixed draws. It is the community's hope that this gesture will save the crag from permanent closure.

The Forest Service was impressed by the action; however, the concern has been elevated to a level at which the Forest Service will likely issue a temporary closure to the cave in order to conduct an archaeological survey to determine what, if any, impact climbing may have had on the resource.

“While the outcome is still uncertain, the Access Fund commends local climbers and NM CRAG for taking constructive, proactive action,” says Access Fund Affiliate Director Zachary Lesch-Huie. “This is a great demonstration that climbers can balance and share what we all value in a particular place—whether it be climbing, flora or fauna, history and heritage, or sacred ground.”

NM CRAG is actively working with the Forest Service and the Jemez Pueblo to find a resolution that protects the archaeological significance of the cave while allowing continued climbing. Stay tuned to Access Fund e-news for updates. ■



# Access Fund Plants Roots in Southeast

The Access Fund is pleased to announce that we have opened our first regional office in Chattanooga, TN, to support the work of local climbing organizations in the area—from the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition to the Southeastern Climbers Coalition.

The new office is staffed by Zachary Lesch-Huie, a North Carolina native who joined the Access Fund in our Boulder office last summer as the national affiliate director providing support to our nationwide network of LCOs and regional coordinators. Zachary will continue to head up the Access Fund's national affiliate network from Chattanooga and will also serve as Southeast regional director in a 50/50 split.

"I'm extremely excited to serve the Southeast's local organizations and help them build on an already impressive track record of successful projects," says Zachary.

*As the Access Fund continues to grow, we intend to extend our regional footprint, putting more staff and expertise near those areas and organizations that can benefit most from our support.*

As a relatively small organization with a national scope, the Access Fund relies on local organizations and dedicated volunteers to advance the mission of climbing access and conservation. This new position in Chattanooga will be focused on helping volunteers and affiliates in the Southeast be more effective, which has a multiplier effect, strengthening our advocacy.



Zachary Lesch-Huie, center, with advocates from the Black Hills Climbers Coalition.

As the Access Fund continues to grow, we intend to extend our regional footprint, putting more staff and expertise near those areas and organizations that can benefit most from our support.

"So much of the climbing in the Southeast occurs on private land, from the Red River Gorge to the Deep South," says Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson.

"Zachary's experience as an officer at the Carolina Climbers Coalition and a staffer at a land trust combined with our land acquisition expertise and capital through the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign put us in a great position to make the many Southeastern volunteers and local climbing organizations even more effective. Some of our strongest LCOs are in the Southeast, and there is still much more work that needs to be done." ■



Since 1994, Sterling Rope has been helping keep climbing areas open by supporting the Access Fund. As a leading manufacturer of climbing rope, cord, and hardware, this year Sterling Rope created a limited edition Access Fund and American Alpine Club 9.8mm climbing rope. For each rope purchased, \$10 goes to the Access Fund and American Alpine Club. We thank Sterling Rope for its commitment to protecting America's climbing and supporting local climbing communities across the U.S. The limited edition rope is available at [www.accessfund.org/store](http://www.accessfund.org/store). Order one now before they sell out!

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!

### ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

Chrysler Group, LLC/Jeep®  
Mountain Gear  
Outdoor Research  
prAna  
The North Face

### TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD  
CLIF Bar & Company  
Mammut  
MSR®  
Petzl  
Therm-a-Rest®

### DIAMOND PLUS - \$35,000+

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

### DIAMOND - \$20,000+

*Alpinist Magazine*  
*Climbing Magazine*  
*Dead Point Magazine*  
Marmot  
*Rock & Ice Magazine*  
Touchstone Climbing Inc.  
*Urban Climber Magazine*

### PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Osprey

### PLATINUM - \$10,000+

Archer Law Offices  
Big Up Productions  
eGrips Climbing Holds  
Mountain Hardware  
Mountain Project  
Planet Granite  
Sender Films

Stanley  
Stonewear Designs  
Trango

### GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

Carhartt  
Native Eyewear  
SCARPA North America

### GOLD - \$5,000+

Cause & Effect Productions  
GORE-TEX® Products  
KEEN  
La Sportiva  
New England Ropes  
ROCK'n & JAM'n  
The Spot Boulderling Gym  
Xcel Energy

### SILVER - \$2,500+

Arc'teryx  
Avery Brewing Company  
BlueWater Ropes  
Campmor  
Falcon Guides  
JetBoil  
Mad Rock  
Metolius  
Outdoor Retailer  
Schoeller  
Sterling Rope  
SuperTopo.com  
USA Climbing

### MAJOR - \$1,000+

Asolo  
Backwoods  
CAMP USA  
Climb Max Mountaineering  
Drive Current  
Fixed Pin Publishing  
Louder Than 11  
Moosejaw  
Mountain Khakis  
New Belgium Brewing Company  
Patagonia  
RESTOP  
Sea to Summit  
Treasure Mountain Inn  
Upslope Brewing Company  
Yates Gear, Inc.

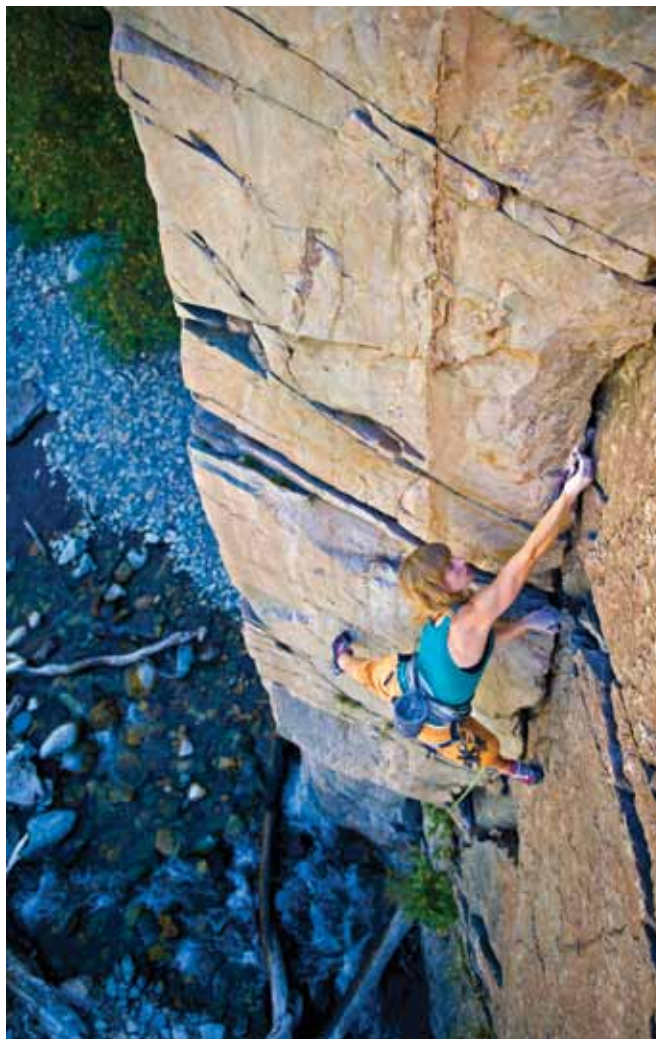
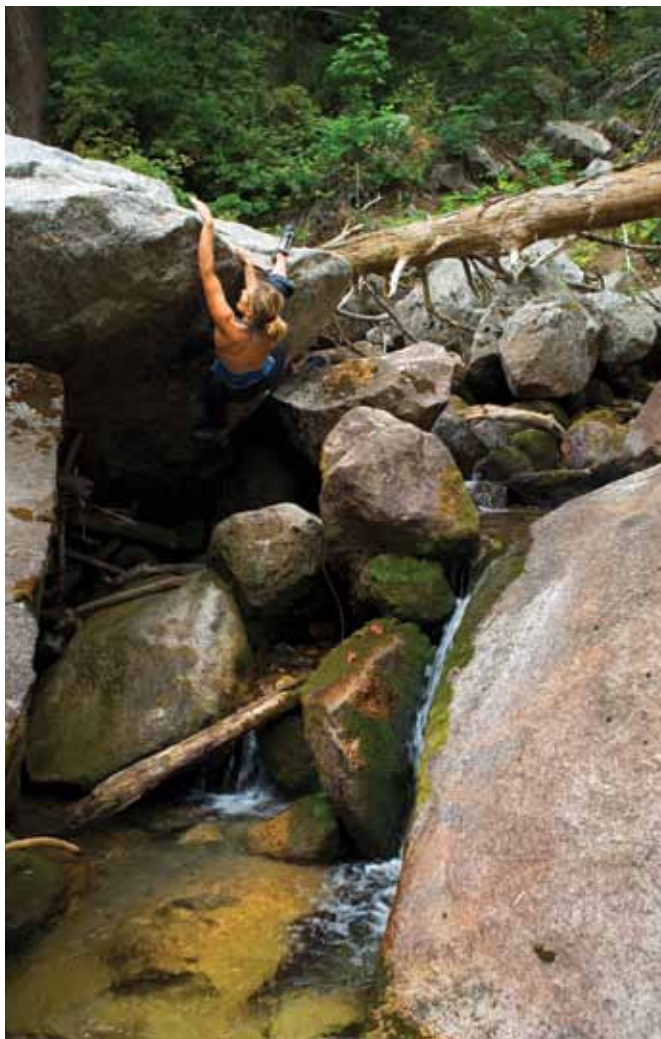
### CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Adventure Inn Moab  
Aiguille Rock Climbing Center  
Alpine Ascents International  
Alpine Endeavors  
Amarillo Rock Climbing House  
DMM Excalibur/Wild Country/  
Red Chili  
Desert Rock Sports  
Eddie McStiffs  
Evolve Sports  
Footprints, Inc.  
GearEXPRESS.com  
Geezer, Inc.  
Got it! Real Estate & Development  
Gregory Mountain Products  
Julbo  
KNS Reps, Inc.  
Liberty Mountain Climbing  
Love Muffin Café  
Moab Half Marathon  
Mountain Tools  
Neptune Mountaineering  
Oskar Blues Brewery  
Outdoor Utah Adventure  
PMI  
Poison Spider Bicycles  
Redpoint Nutrition  
Redwood Creek  
Rocks and Ropes of Tucson  
Silltech  
Stone Age Climbing Gym  
Times Independent Publishing  
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS  
Trailspace.com  
Vandalion Restaurant  
Verde PR & Consulting  
Wes & Gold

### SUPPORTING - \$250+

Armaid  
Boulder Rock Club/Colorado  
Mountain School  
Climb Nashville  
Omega Pacific  
Intelligentsia  
Mesa Rim Climbing Center  
The Law Firm for Non-Profits





Left to right: Mindy Knowles bouldering in Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT; and Cerre Francis on Masters of the Obvious, Beachball Crag, Big Cottonwood Canyon, UT | © Nathan Smith

# Nathan Smith

With a “first one in, last one out” mentality, Nathan Smith always goes the extra mile with his photography. This willingness to do whatever it takes to get the photo right often means long days with heavy packs and not much sleep ... but this just adds to the fun.

“Photography is not just about the final image. It’s the people you meet, the amazing settings, and the experiences you gain from it,” says Nathan. “If I’ve done things right, you’ll be able to see all of this reflected in the images.”

Nathan lives with his wife Cheri in Salt Lake City, Utah. ■



The Access Fund  
P.O. Box 17010  
Boulder, Colorado 80308



## Take Advantage of Your Member Benefits

As an Access Fund member in good standing, you are eligible for some great benefits from our corporate sponsors:

- Preferred pricing on Jeep and other Chrysler vehicles, equating to thousands off MSRP
- Up to 60% off subscriptions to your favorite climbing magazines
- Discounts of up to 20% off your gear and clothes from companies like prAna, Zeal Optics, and RESTOP
- FREE shipping from Mountain Gear

To learn more, visit  
[www.accessfund.org/  
memberdiscounts](http://www.accessfund.org/memberdiscounts).