

# VERTICAL TIMES

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“I hate those ebooks! They cannot be the future! They may well be. I will be dead. I won’t give a s\$%t!” — The late Maurice Sendak, author of *Where the Wild Things Are*

The world of media and information is changing, and we need to be willing to change with it. When I first started as the Executive Director of the Access Fund in 2007, MySpace was in decline and Facebook was just ramping up. The first iPhone had just been released, and the rise of the mobile web and apps was in its infancy. We published the *Vertical Times* six times a year and relied heavily on direct mail to gain new members. When we launched our Facebook page in 2008, we debated if we were just wasting our time and if it would ever result in anything tangible.

Now, in 2015, things are different. We use our website, Facebook, email, Twitter, YouTube, Vimeo, and Instagram to communicate with our supporters. We produce a printed annual report, publish the *Vertical Times* three times a year, and minimize our use of direct mail. Only recently have online donations outnumbered paper transactions. Who wants to write a check anymore? Some of you do, as checks constitute about 30% of member transactions, but this number is in decline.

An informed membership and climbing community is essential to our work. We need you, our members, to know what is going on and what we’re doing about it. How else would you know that your hard-earned dollars are put to good use? The growing climbing community is seeking more and more content, articles, photos, videos, and comments. The burden to our “communications department,” as we somewhat jokingly refer to our one communications staffer, is constantly on the rise. So it is only natural to ask, should we still produce a printed version of the *Vertical Times*? Is it worth the time and expense, or could these hours and dollars be put to better use? We want to hear from you. Do you actually read this thing, or does it get shuffled along with the piles of credit card applications and catalogs you receive every week? Check out the Feature Story on page 8 for an analysis of the *Vertical Times* and then check in and tell us what you think. You can email me directly at [brady@accessfund.org](mailto:brady@accessfund.org).

We have some great victories to share in this issue. At long last, climbing has been reopened in Hawaii. Even if you never plan to climb there, I think you can agree that a state agency closing climbing due to liability concerns would have been a chilling precedent, to say the least. Also in this issue, we honor the organizations and volunteers who make our work possible with our annual Sharp End Awards. Take a moment to read their accomplishments – maybe you’ll be inspired to win one yourself someday!

See you out there,

Brady Robinson  
Access Fund Executive Director

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Chris Archer



Guillaume Bitton climbs The Flake on Otter Cliff, Acadia National Park, Maine | © Elodie Saracco

## LCO 101: Applying for Grant Funding

Here are some tips for pursuing grant funding for local projects:

**Start researching.** Funding can come from the government, private foundations, corporations, or other nonprofits and might fall under the categories of conservation, public health, environment, education, or outdoor recreation tourism. Look for funders who match your mission, work, and geographic region. Check out Access Fund's Climbing Preservation Grants Program and the American Alpine Club's Cornerstone Conservation Grant.

**Determine eligibility.** Once you've found a potential grant source, read its guidelines and requirements carefully before submitting an application. Make sure your organization meets requirements, such as nonprofit incorporation, 501(c)(3) status, or partnership with another organization.

**Reach out.** Depending on the grant source, it may be appropriate or even required to make contact first or to submit a formal letter of inquiry to introduce your organization and describe your proposal to see if the funder will consider supporting it. This step can save you time and enhance your chances of being awarded.

**Consider a partnership.** Partnering with like-minded organizations can make your application stronger. Get creative, think big picture, and think longterm when considering partnerships. Partners enable you to leverage resources, generate matching dollars, advance a collaborative approach, and forge relationships that may be the basis for future funding. The Access Fund is open to partnering with LCOs on local grants. Ask us!

## Welcome, Central Wyoming Climbers Alliance

The Access Fund is excited to welcome the Central Wyoming Climbers Alliance (CWCA) to the grassroots affiliate program. The CWCA is best known for its International Climbers Festival, held each summer in Lander, Wyoming. The organization also manages a youth climbing program that promotes our sport and sponsors two kids per year to climb the Grand Teton, as well as the Lander Bolt and Anchor Replacement Fund, which has replaced over 100 routes in Sinks Canyon and Wild Iris in the last two years. The CWCA recently achieved 501(c)(3) status. Nice work and welcome aboard, CWCA!

## East Tennessee Climbers Coalition Is on a Roll



The East Tennessee Climbers Coalition (ETCC) has taken care of the climbing in the Obed since 2004, alongside the National Park Service and conservation partners like The Nature Conservancy. ETCC recently

hosted a volunteer re-bolting of Lilly Bluff, one of the Obed's most popular crags, with support from the American Safe Climbing Association. And it hosts an annual Adopt a Crag that is a vital part of climbing management and natural resource protection along the Obed Wild & Scenic River. ETCC recently incorporated as a nonprofit, putting it on stronger footing for long-term advocacy efforts. Congrats, ETCC!

## Illinois Climber's Association Going Strong



Illinois Climber's Association (ICA) is hitting its stride with a strong new board of directors and great projects. Last October, ICA knocked out a successful Adopt a Crag at Holy Boulders, doing trail maintenance, boulder landing reinforcement, and vegetation removal. In November, its

Second Testament bouldering competition at Holy Boulders grew by over 100 participants and raised \$11,252 to help pay for the climbing area acquisition. This year, ICA is planning an Adopt a Crag at Jackson Falls and further stewardship projects at Holy Boulders. Keep it up, ICA!

## Welcome, Southwest Virginia Climbers Coalition

Access Fund is proud to welcome the new Southwest Virginia Climbers Coalition (SVCC) to the national network of local climbing organizations. Recently incorporated as a Virginia nonprofit, SVCC is focused on stewardship and protection of southwest Virginia's unique and growing climbing resources from Roanoke to the Cumberland Gap. SVCC is hitting the ground running, supporting trail days and working with public land managers for areas like Grayson Highlands State Park, the Guest River Gorge, and Breaks Interstate Park. It's also supporting Carolina Climbers Coalition with ongoing fundraising and stewardship and management of Hidden Valley. At press time SVCC executed an agreement with Access Fund and the City of Norton to open climbing on the high-quality sandstone of the city's Flag Rock Recreation Area. Keep up the great work, SVCC!



Many cliff-dwelling raptor species are protected under federal law such as the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and/or under state law. The laws that protect raptors (e.g., peregrine falcons, golden eagles, and prairie falcons) depend on the raptor species and the state. Protection of nest sites is a priority for protecting raptor species.

The most sensitive period in the breeding cycle is incubation, hatching, and fledging, when outside disturbance to the nest site—particularly from climbing—could compromise the chicks. When you encounter signage indicating a closure due to nesting raptors, please respect it. Together we can help protect and promote the welfare of the endangered raptors with which we share the cliffs. The climbing experience would be greatly diminished by their absence.

Information about seasonal raptor closures is widely communicated and publicized in the climbing community by land managers, by your local climbing organization, in guidebooks, and on Mountain Project. Learn about seasonal raptor closures at your local crags and road trip destinations before you head out, and climb somewhere else until the closure is lifted. ■

# THE INSIDE SCOOP: BISHOP

If you're like most climbers, you pore over guidebooks for weeks or even months when planning a climbing trip. You educate yourself on routes, descents, gear, and camping. But what about the local ethics, issues, and challenges at your destination crag? Part of being a responsible climber is knowing how to tread lightly—both socially and environmentally. In the *Inside Scoop* series,

we connect you with local climbing access leaders at some of the country's top climbing destinations for valuable insight into local ethics and issues.

**Destination:** BISHOP, CA

**Local expert:** ANDREW SCHURR, BOARD MEMBER, BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION (BACC)

## What is the biggest challenge facing the Bishop climbing community now?

Our biggest challenge is the increasing number of climbers visiting each year. Bishop is a very fragile high desert environment, and increased traffic (compounded by an ongoing drought) makes it hard for the desert to recover from the impacts of recreation.

## How are you addressing this overcrowding issue?

We are working to educate climbers about best practices and ways they can help. We are rolling this out through climbing gyms and other places where people new to climbing can learn what it means to tread lightly and keep things sustainable and open.

## How is the relationship between climbers and the land managers?

They are good and getting better. The vast majority of the Bishop's climbing is on public land, so it's important that the climbing community stays engaged and works with land managers and the broader community to create positive relationships and care for our climbing areas. Local climbers, the BACC, and other community members have been really engaged with land managers (many of whom are also climbers), and we have a great ongoing dialogue.

## Are there currently any threats to climbing access?

There are no imminent access threats, but the impacts caused by increased visitation could have future repercussions. More climbers means more cars, more dogs, more need for campsites, more human waste, and more cumulative impacts.

## What is the best way to dispose of human waste at Bishop?

Use the available toilets or pack it out. The three largest areas—the Buttermilks, the Happies, and Owens River Gorge—all have toilet facilities. If you have to go and you are in any of those areas, please use the toilets, even if you have to walk a ways to do it. Human waste and toilet paper do not break down adequately in fragile desert soil, so if you have to go in the wild, pack it out.

## Isn't Bishop home to archeological resources?

Yes. The Eastern Sierra and the Owens Valley have been home to humans for thousands of years. Native peoples and later settlers left their legacy in the form of artifacts, petroglyphs, pictographs, and other archeological resources. Federal law protects all of these things. As climbers, we need to recognize that some boulders shouldn't be climbed, artifacts need to stay where they are, and we should look but not touch when we find

petroglyphs or pictographs. It would be a drag to lose access to an area because of the actions of a few.

## So what's the ethic that visiting climbers should follow?

Respect others and remember that if it looks or feels wrong, it probably is.

- Stay on the roads and trails.
- Park and camp in designated spots.
- Respect land managers, other users, and regulations.
- Keep control of and pick up after your dog.
- Don't crush the brush.
- Be mindful of archeological resources.
- Pick up trash even if it isn't yours.
- Pack out your poop.

Most important, if you have a question, call one of the local land management agencies, or ask in one of the local shops, at the Black Sheep, or the Mountain Rambler—someone will be able to direct you to an answer.

## Any final words of wisdom?

Climbing in Bishop is a privilege. Respect it and leave it better than you found it. The climbing community is small, and we need to look after each other and our climbing areas as the sport continues to grow in popularity.

## Learn more about BACC

Facebook: [facebook.com/BishopAreaClimbersCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/BishopAreaClimbersCoalition) ■

## STEWARDSHIP TRAINING SERIES Takes on Increased Climber Impacts

Many climbing areas across the country are suffering from dire environmental impacts due to increased climber traffic. We are seeing everything from severe erosion and water quality issues caused by increased runoff to plant degradation, soil compaction, and deteriorating safety conditions.

The Access Fund–Jeep Conservation Team was created to address these severe impacts, but the team can't be everywhere at once. So the Access Fund has launched a new Stewardship Training Series, which will train local climbing organization leaders and volunteers on the highly technical trail skills needed to mitigate climber impacts.

Historically, Adopt a Crags and other stewardship initiatives have consisted of trash cleanup, graffiti removal, and maybe some light trail work. But as impacts grow, it is imperative that local leaders have the skills to tackle more advanced projects.

### The Stewardship Training will focus on:

- Developing highly technical trail skills among LCO leaders and volunteers.
- Providing vision for long-term planning within the LCO and volunteer network.
- Fostering a network of collaboration and teamwork throughout the national climbing community.
- Showing land managers that the climbing community is highly capable of caring for their resources.
- Establishing climbing area stewardship standards and best management practices.

All local climbing organizations, volunteers, Adopt a Crag organizers, land managers, trail professionals, and partners are encouraged to attend a Climbing Stewardship Training in their area. Stay tuned for registration details. ■



### 2015 Stewardship Training Series

- Yosemite National Park, CA: May 18–21
- Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake City, UT: June 25–28
- Red River Gorge, KY: September 9–13

# THE END OF VERTICAL TIMES? YOU DECIDE.

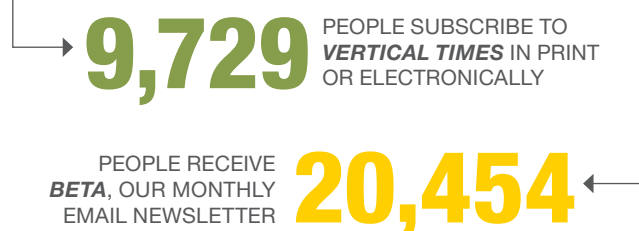
With a growing number of nonprofits abandoning printed newsletters in favor of more economical and environmentally friendly online content, we want to hear what you think the future of the *Vertical Times* should be.

Access Fund remains committed to delivering national climbing access news, and we want to provide the same quality content that you've come to expect in a format that makes the most sense for your lifestyle and is a cost-

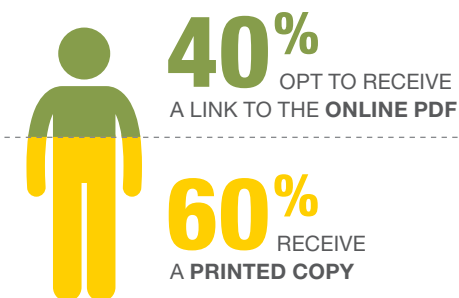
effective use of your membership dollars. Ensuring that the climbing community is well informed serves our mission—we just want to do so as efficiently and effectively as we can.

So tell us ... would you rather receive your climbing access content on our website and our blog, or does the printed *Vertical Times* still have a place? Cast your vote at [www.accessfund.org/endofvt](http://www.accessfund.org/endofvt), but first take a look at these facts to help inform your decision. ■

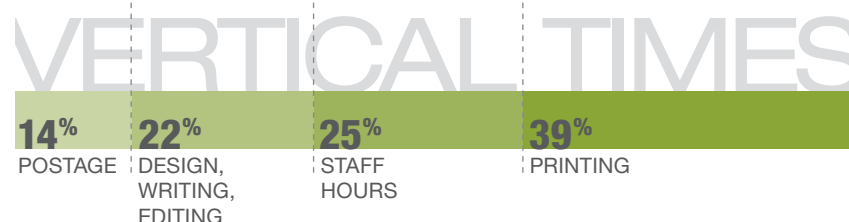
## HOW CLIMBERS GET THEIR ACCESS NEWS



## HOW PEOPLE READ VERTICAL TIMES



## EACH ISSUE COSTS



The Access Fund's first printed newsletter was published in February 1990 under the title, *Access Notes*.



Currently, the Access Fund publishes **three issues of *Vertical Times*** each year, in the spring, fall, and winter.

The name *Vertical Times* was introduced in Volume 22 in May 1998.

Last year, we celebrated the 100th issue of the *Vertical Times*.



NEW WEBSITE WILL BE CONTENT RICH, AND TABLET AND MOBILE FRIENDLY.

**CAST YOUR VOTE** on whether to keep the *Vertical Times* or transition to more online content. [www.accessfund.org/endofvt](http://www.accessfund.org/endofvt)

# THE FIGHT FOR HAWAII'S CLIMBING ACCESS

On Sunday, January 25, 2015—957 days after Mokuleia on the North Shore of Oahu was closed—Hawaii climbers were finally able to return to their beloved crag. After being dealt a devastating blow to climbing access in the spring of 2012, the water-locked Oahu climbing community started a fight for access that would last well over two years. The timeline illustrates the

victories and setbacks of that epic three-year battle. This was an important and hard-fought victory that highlights the tenacity of the local climbing community and the Access Fund and what good, old-fashioned perseverance can accomplish. A huge thanks to all the local climbers and advocates across the country who took action to protect Hawaii's climbing access. ■

- 2012**
  - March 2012**  
Hawaii pays a \$15.4 million settlement in the 2006 wrongful death case of two hikers in Kauai.
  - June 2012**  
A 12-year-old girl is critically injured by a falling rock while on a guided YMCA climbing outing at the Mokuleia Wall.
  - The Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) closes access to the Mokuleia Wall, installing No Trespassing signs with a warning of a \$2,000 fine.
  - July 2012**  
Local climbing advocates join together to fight the climbing ban, gaining support of the Access Fund and gathering 1,700 signed petitions to rescind the closure.
  - December 2012**  
Four climbers are ticketed for climbing at a North Shore climbing area clearly distinct from Mokuleia. The DLNR asserts that climbing is banned on ALL its lands, effectively closing two more crags.
- 2013**
  - January 2013**  
Local climbing advocates begin lobbying to state legislature.
  - February 2013**  
Access Fund flies policy staff to Hawaii to provide expert testimony at State Senate hearing.

- March 2013**  
First legislative approach fails when the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee refuses to schedule our bills.
- July 2013**  
Local climbing advocates and the Access Fund begin a months-long process of working with the Hawaii Attorney General's office and Chair of the House Judiciary Committee to craft new language for Senate Bill 1007.
- ★ **Senate Bill 1007**  
A bill to expand the law that protects Hawaiian government from liability for accidents involving non-natural hazards (e.g., trails or bolts) on public land.
- 2014**
  - January 2014**  
Access Fund rallies climbing advocates across the nation, submitting hundreds of pieces of testimony to Hawaii state legislature to support Senate Bill 1007 and reopen access.
  - Senate Bill 1007 passes the state Senate and is sent to the House.
  - April 2014**  
Seven critical pages are removed from Senate Bill 1007 by the finance committee, gutting the provision that would protect the state from lawsuits associated with accidents due to non-natural hazards.

- Local climbing advocates launch petitions to pressure committee members to reassemble the integrity of the original bill; they also file a formal ethics complaint.
- May 2014**  
Senate Bill 1007 passes the House floor, but without the recreational liability protections that would have reopened Oahu's climbing.
- Access Fund begins working with the Attorney General's office to find non-legislative solutions, proposing that climbers sign liability waivers, which will be processed by an LCO.
- July 2014**  
Senate Bill 1007 is signed into law, formally closing the door on legislative approaches to Oahu's climbing access.
- November 2014**  
Hawaii Climbers Coalition (HCC) is formed.
- December 2014**  
DLNR agrees to reopen access if signs warning of the dangers of climbing are posted at the Mokuleia trailhead and the cliff base, and if HCC signs a revocable permit to steward the site, respond to public safety concerns, and administer an online waiver system.
- 2015**
  - January 2015**  
Mokuleia is reopened!

## JOE'S VALLEY: A PERFECT STORM OF CLIMBER IMPACTS

When you think about U.S. bouldering hot spots, you probably think Bishop, Hueco, J-Tree, Yosemite Valley, HP40, and—newest to the list—Joe's Valley, Utah. The popularity of Joe's Valley exploded in early 2000 with the ascent of the area's first V13. Since then, it has experienced non-stop growth, drawing climbers from around the world to conquer its vast array of sandstone boulders, which boast a wide variety of moderate and hard problems.

But Joe's Valley faces some unique challenges. The bouldering area sits nestled in the foothills of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, just east of the Joe's Valley Reservoir, the main water supply for the rural mining and ranching communities of Orangeville and Castle Dale, Utah. A mere two and half hours from downtown Salt Lake City, and about six hours from the population centers of Colorado, Joe's Valley is a perfect weekend getaway for rocky mountain climbers, but it lacks any real "local" climbing community to help sustain it.

As the popularity of Joe's Valley continues to rise, increased climber traffic is causing some extreme environmental impacts that could threaten access if not addressed. One of the biggest concerns is human waste from visiting climbers, which has the potential to contaminate the water supply given the area's proximity to the Joe's Valley Reservoir

and the seasonal creek beds that feed the surrounding communities. Heavy foot traffic and pad placement have also caused extremely eroded and unstable landing areas, as well as a network of braided trails that are stripping soils of their native plants, making the area even more exposed to impacts. And with limited parking options, climbers are parking illegally on a narrow canyon road with very limited visibility, creating safety hazards. Finally, many of the area's camping options are too close to the busy roads and too close to watercourses that feed water to the communities below.

*We ask the climbing community to embrace the changes that are needed at Joe's Valley.*

Access Fund and nearby Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLCA) have pulled together a Joe's Valley stewardship coalition to begin addressing these issues. The coalition includes the local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) offices, which manage the bulk of the climbing and camping areas, as well as Emery County officials who have a large stake in tourism and water quality issues. SLCA kicked off the planning process by funding an area assessment to document the state of natural resources at Joe's Valley. Working together, we have brought forth our concerns about the impacts at Joe's Valley and begun long-term stewardship planning to address these impacts and create sustainable climbing access and a positive experience for visiting climbers and the local community.

The planning process will continue throughout 2015, with a final plan ready for rollout in early 2016. We ask the climbing community to embrace the changes that are needed at Joe's Valley. Though some of them will not be popular, they are critical to protecting climbing access and this unique climbing environment. We'll keep the community posted as the plan for Joe's Valley takes shape. ■





*These recipients stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community, and the Access Fund is honored to present this year's awards to a worthy group of volunteers and activists.*

**LIZ AND RICK WEBER  
Menocal Lifetime  
Achievement Award**



Access Fund is proud to present Rick and Liz Weber with the Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award for establishing an incredible legacy for one of America's greatest climbing destinations: Muir Valley. In 2004, after retiring from their engineering and automobile industry careers, the Webers embarked on a one-of-a-kind retirement project – the acquisition and management of a 300-acre valley surrounded by seven miles of the Corbin Sandstone cliff line for which the Red River Gorge is so famous. For the last 11 years, the two have driven from their home in Indiana each week to establish and steward this world-class climbing area and nature preserve. They've invested more than \$1 million of their own funds to ensure that Muir Valley will continue to be available as a climbing resource beyond their lifetimes. Thousands of volunteers have assisted, and the Webers are now poised to hand over ownership and management of the property to the Friends of Muir Valley (FoMV), which has stepped up to fundraise and take responsibility for this climbing area. Join us in congratulating Rick and Liz for making this remarkable gift to the American climbing community!

**HAWAII CLIMBING COALITION  
Bebie Leadership Award**

We are pleased to honor the Hawaii Climbing Coalition with the Bebie Leadership Award for its persistent effort to reopen climbing in Hawaii after Oahu's premier crags were closed in 2012. The local advocates, assisted by the Access Fund, attempted to reopen the crags via a legislative approach. Despite their admirable lobbying efforts, State legislators ultimately closed the door on the legislative solution and left the future of Oahu's crags uncertain. These dedicated climbing advocates brushed themselves off and began to explore an administrative approach. The State Attorney General's office and the DLNR were so impressed with the group's efforts that they agreed, after months of negotiations, on a contract that allows the crags to be opened after nearly three years of closure. These leaders of the Hawaii Climbing Coalition are prime examples of our community's finest advocates.



**LEIF FABER  
Reese Martin Regional  
Coordinator Award**

We're proud to recognize longtime climbing advocate Leif Faber. Leif served on the board of Illinois Climber's Association (ICA) for six years, and was the Illinois Access Fund Regional Coordinator from 2010 to 2014. In both roles he was a tireless steward and advocate for Illinois climbing



areas. At Jackson Falls, Leif worked to replace fixed anchors, steward the area through volunteer trail days, and maintain a good relationship with Shawnee National Forest. Leif has also worked on climbing management policy at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and Rockwood Reservation in Missouri. More recently, he initiated ICA into the Access Fund joint membership program and played a key role in permanently protecting Holy Boulders in Illinois.

**CLIFTON CLIMBERS ALLIANCE  
Land Conservation Award**

The Access Fund is excited to present Clifton Climbers Alliance (CCA) with a Land Conservation Award for its dedication to protecting Eagle Bluff in central Maine. When Eagle Bluff was unexpectedly closed in 2013, the local climbing community came together with support from Access Fund to purchase and reopen the popular granite bluff. Local climbers quickly formed CCA, gained 501(c)(3) status, helped raise over \$150,000, and secured public funding from the Land for Maine's Future program. After just six months, Access Fund assigned its Option Agreement to CCA, which became the proud owner of Eagle Bluff, permanently securing climbing and hiking access for the local community and climbers across New England. We congratulate CCA on its success and look forward to supporting this new local climbing organization in its management and stewardship of Eagle Bluff for future generations to enjoy.



**ADAM BAYLOR  
Sharp End Award**

We are excited to present a Sharp End Award to Adam Baylor for his climbing advocacy leadership in the greater Portland area. Adam serves as Access Fund Regional Coordinator, Mazama Stewardship and Communications Manager, and organizer of Beacon Rock Climbing Association. At Horsethief Butte, Adam led the way in revising the climbing management plan with Washington State Parks. Most recently, he teamed up with Outdoor Alliance Oregon to join other human-powered recreationalists to advocate for recreation support and funding at the federal level in D.C. and at the local level in Oregon. Adam continues to host stewardship events and foster partnerships across the region.



**FRIENDS OF MUIR VALLEY  
Sharp End Award**

The Access Fund honors Friends of Muir Valley for its great accomplishment of 2014—raising over \$200,000 toward the stewardship and management of Muir Valley and demonstrating its commitment to continuing the legacy created by Rick and Liz Weber. Year after year, FoMV has organized annual trail days, greeted visitors, completed restoration projects, and galvanized volunteers and community support. With special thanks to the hundreds of climbers and partners who supported this cause, FoMV and its board of directors met their fundraising goal, and FoMV is transitioning into ownership of Muir Valley via a gift of the land from the Webers.



**BRIAN PAYST  
Sharp End Award**

We are excited to present a Sharp End Award to Brian Payst for his leadership and local advocacy in the Carolinas and beyond. Brian joined the Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) board in 2009, and now serves as the organization's president. He also serves as Access Fund Regional Coordinator for North Carolina, and his initiative has led to major successes for CCC and the climbing community. Brian spearheaded negotiations with the private landowner of Sauratown, NC, to successfully reopen this important cliff after years of closure. With Access Fund, he led CCC's purchase of Hidden Valley in Virginia, reopening yet another major crag in the region. Brian brings an engaged, proactive approach to public land managers, fostering strong relationships. Brian has also volunteered hundreds of hours of IT and website services to CCC, increasing capacity and improving communications.



**BENNETT SCOTT  
Sharp End Award**

The Access Fund is proud to recognize Bennett Scott for his dedication to protecting the climbing resources of Northern Colorado and the Fort Collins area. As a board member and president of Northern Colorado Climbers Coalition (NCCC), Ben has led dozens of trail days at popular areas like Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, and Arthur's Rock. He spearheaded a successful effort to open roped climbing in Lory State Park, working with the park managers to create a fixed anchor initiative and new route process. This past year, he successfully worked with Larimer County to replace fixed anchors on



Horsetooth Mountain, bringing new life to the area's historic routes. A graphic designer by trade, Ben has also donated thousands of dollars in design services.

**MATTHEW ULERY  
Sharp End Award**

It's with great excitement that the Access Fund presents Matthew Ulery with a Sharp End Award for his dedication and relentless energy to climbing advocacy in the San Francisco Bay Area. Matt not only motivated and united volunteers for the creation of the Bay Area Climbers Coalition, he has also organized and led several Adopt a Crag events at local crags. Matt's positive outlook and relationship building skills have fostered friendly relationships with local land management staff and neighbors. He continues to be an invested and motivated partner in one of the largest climber populations in the U.S.



**BLACK DIAMOND EQUIPMENT  
Sharp End Award**



The Access Fund is honored to present Black Diamond Equipment with a Sharp End Award for helping to launch Access Fund's new climber education program, ROCK Project. Black Diamond's support of ROCK Project expanded Access Fund's education capacity, allowing us to continue to build awareness of responsible outdoor climbing ethics. We thank Black Diamond for its continued dedication to protecting America's climbing and helping educate the next generation of climbers to be responsible stewards. ■

**E**arth Treks Climbing Centers, home to some of the largest indoor rock climbing gyms in the country, has joined us as an Access Fund Member Gym at the Platinum Plus level. For many of us, gyms are where we learned to climb and where we refine our technique and strengthen our ties in the climbing community. The Earth Treks gym in Golden, CO, will be the proud host of the ROCK Project Tour on October 2-4, 2015. We thank Earth Treks for its commitment to educating the climbing community on minimum impact behaviors.



**T**hese 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+

Jeep® Brand/Chrysler Group, LLC

#### TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD  
CLIF Bar & Company  
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

#### DIAMOND - \$25,000+

The North Face  
Patagonia  
Planet Granite  
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.

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

Archer Law Offices, P.C.  
Earth Treks Climbing Centers  
Mountain Hardware  
Osprey  
Outdoor Research  
Petzl

#### PLATINUM - \$10,000+

eGrips Climbing Holds  
GORE-TEX® Products  
Jason Keith Consulting  
La Sportiva  
Mountain Project  
prAna  
SCARPA North America  
Stanley  
Stonewear Designs  
Trango

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

Mountain Gear  
Rock/Creek  
Sterling Rope Company

#### GOLD - \$5,000+

Sender Films  
The Spot Bouldering Gym

#### SILVER - \$2,500+

Adidas Outdoor  
Arc'teryx  
Avery Brewing Company  
BlueWater Ropes  
Falcon Guides  
Liberty Mountain Climbing  
Mad Rock  
Mammut  
Marmot  
Metolius  
Outdoor Retailer  
Portland Rock Gym  
Rock'n Jam'n  
Stone Age Climbing Gym  
SuperTopo.com

#### MAJOR - \$1,000+

Backwoods  
CAMP USA  
Call of the Wild Adventures  
Drive Current  
Evolve Sports  
Fixed Pin Publishing  
High Point Climbing and Fitness  
Jagged Mountain Craft Brewery  
Louder Than 11  
Mountain Khakis  
Moosejaw  
New Belgium Brewing Company  
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym  
SMAC Climbing, LLC  
The Crash Pad  
Thermarest  
Treasure Mountain Inn  
Upslope Brewing Company  
Wildland Trekking Company

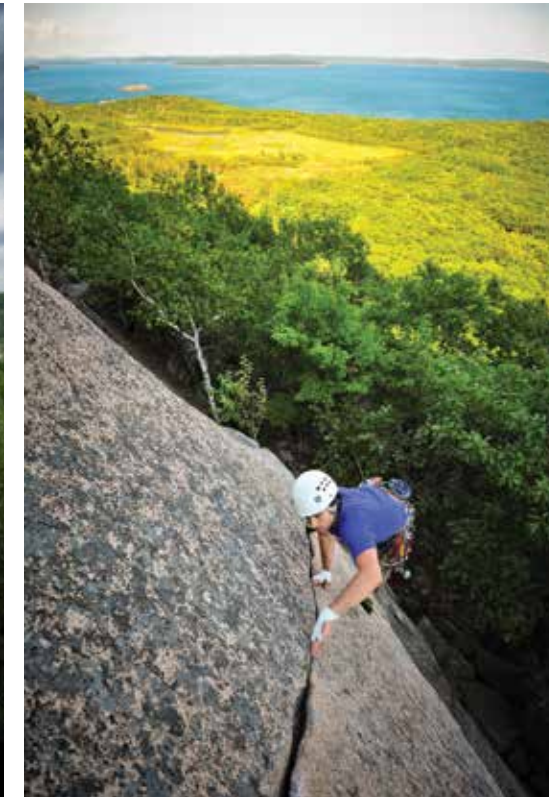
#### CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Aiguille Rock Climbing Center  
Alpine Ascents International  
Alpine Endeavors  
Armaid  
DMM Excalibur

Desert Rock Sports  
Eldorado Climbing Walls  
Green Peak Promotions  
Gregory Packs  
International Alpine Guides  
Julbo  
KNS Reps, Inc.  
Mountain Tools  
RAEN Optics  
Red Chili  
SealGrinder PT  
Tahoe Oral Surgery & Implant Center  
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS  
Trailspace.com  
Travel Country Outdoors  
TRUBLUE Auto Belays  
Verde PR & Consulting  
Vertical Dreams  
Vertical Endeavors  
Wes & Gold  
Xcellence

#### SUPPORTING - \$250+

Amarillo Rock Climbing House  
Backbone Media  
Cadillac Mountain Sports  
Climb Max Mountaineering  
Climb Nashville  
Climbingweather.com  
Doylestown Rock Gym  
Dry ICE Tools  
Forest Oil Corporation  
Forte Creative Media  
Full Contact  
Law Firm for Non-Profits  
Mesa Rim Climbing and Fitness Center  
Origin Climbing and Fitness  
Redefining Balance  
Rock Fitness  
Schneider Management Group, Inc  
Sunrift Adventures  
The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gyms  
The Mountaineer  
Ute Mountaineer  
Wahl Clipper Corporation  
Your Cause Sports



From left to right: Guillaume Bitton climbs Tangerine Fat Explosion, Ten Sleep, Wyoming. | Lorenzo Sanguedolce climbs Wafer Step at Precipice crag, Acadia National Park, Maine. | Clay Cahoon climbs Divine Fury at the Pipe Dream, Maple Canyon, Utah. | © Elodie Saracco

## Elodie Saracco

**S**even years ago, Elodie left France with a rucksack on her back; a camera in her hand; and her heart filled with a desire to see, explore, and experience. With climbing as a thread, she followed her wanderlust across many continents, traveling solo yet never lonely—sharing slices of life with incredible people along the way. Elodie strives to seize and capture moments with her camera, to share her vision and connect with others. “Climbing and photography form a balance—deeply entwined, they bring focus, challenges, joy, lessons, growth, fulfillment, expression, and freedom, making the journey that is life meaningful and substantial,” says Elodie. Although a traveler and a nomad who is at home wherever she goes, Elodie is currently anchored in New York. You can see more of her work at [elodiesaraccophotographic.smugmug.com](http://elodiesaraccophotographic.smugmug.com). ■





Protect America's Climbing

The Access Fund  
207 Canyon Blvd., Suite 201S  
Boulder, Colorado 80302



Access Fund and Black Diamond Equipment are taking the stoke on the road with the 2015 ROCK Project Tour, a six-stop event tour to U.S. climbing hot spots. Professional athletes, indoor climbing gyms, and local climbing advocacy organizations will team up to host a series of multi-day events, including climbing clinics, presentations, stewardship projects, and parties.

**San Francisco**  
March 13–15

**New York City**  
May 1–3

**Denver**  
Oct 2–4

**Salt Lake City**  
April 10–12

**Seattle**  
Sept 18–20

**Atlanta**  
Nov 6–8

Limited availability. Reserve your spot today at [www.accessfund.org/rockprojecttour](http://www.accessfund.org/rockprojecttour).