

VERTICAL TIMES

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REMEMBERING
Mark Hesse
1950-2014

Mark Hesse, a longtime climber, conservationist, volunteer, and wilderness educator, died from unknown causes in a climbing gym in Boulder, Colorado, on January 27. He had dedicated his life to outdoor education and land stewardship. If you've ever walked up a trail or a set of stone steps at a climbing area in Utah or Colorado, chances are you have witnessed Mark's legacy firsthand. Mark had been working on a climbing area stewardship manual for the Access Fund and was actively involved in launching a Front Range Climbing Stewards program with the Boulder Climbing Community at the time of his passing.

After a long and successful career with Outward Bound, Mark created the American Mountain Foundation and ran it from 1989 to 1998. That organization morphed into the Rocky Mountain Field Institute, which he ran until 2009. Both nonprofits were leaders in the stewardship of climbing areas, building extensive trail networks in Indian Creek and Castle Valley, Utah; Shelf Road, Colorado; and on Colorado 14ers and other high peaks. In 2012, Mark founded Wildscapes Planning and Design, a company focused on trail building and restoration.

Mark was the recipient of many awards, including the American Alpine Club's David Brower Conservation Award in 1995. In 2005 and 2007, he received the Bob Marshall Award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship presented by the US Forest Service. He climbed and traveled all over the world and made many first ascents on several continents. In 1976, Mark made the first ascent of the southeast face of Mt. Asgard on Baffin Island. In 1982, he soloed the south face of Denali via the Scott-Haston Route. In 1986, he did the alpine-style first ascent of the northeast buttress of Kangtega (22,241 feet) in Nepal. As recently as 2006, Mark completed a new route on a 20,000-foot peak in Peru. Never one to rest on his laurels, Mark was still an active climber and trail builder. Even after decades of rugged trail labor, he still had a youthful enthusiasm for the work, and was somewhat notorious for quickly picking all the choice rocks at a worksite for himself. He was incredibly generous with his time and expertise, and truly devoted himself to making the places he loved better for everyone to enjoy. Mark was a devoted husband and father and is survived by his wife and two grown daughters.

All of us here at the Access Fund feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Mark. He will be dearly missed.

– **Steve Matous**
Executive Director, Outward Bound USA
Former Executive Director, Access Fund

– **Brady Robinson**
Executive Director, Access Fund

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Chris Archer





New Native Lands Regional Coordinator

We are proud to welcome Aaron Mike as Access Fund’s new Native Lands Regional Coordinator. Aaron grew up in Gallop, New Mexico, and has deep roots in Kayenta and Sanders on the Navajo Nation. Aaron is currently based in Tucson, Arizona, and is an AMGA SPI guide who works in the climbing industry. Aaron will be an important liaison between the Access Fund and Native peoples.

New Climbers Coalition in the Bay Area

Access Fund is thrilled to welcome the newly formed Bay Area Climbers Coalition (BACC) to our network of local affiliates. BACC brings local climbers together to preserve and re-open access; educate climbers on best stewardship practices; and host stewardship events, like last year’s two successful Adopt a Crag events at Berkeley’s Indian Rock. In April BACC is hosting an Adopt a Crag with Santa Clara County Parks at the Bay Area’s other Indian Rock, near Castle Rock. To learn more, join the **BACC group on Facebook**.

New Regional Coordinator for Northern Arizona



We are excited to welcome Jacob Dolence as our new Access Fund Regional Coordinator for Northern Arizona. Jacob brings a wealth of community organizing and advocacy experience to this volunteer role. He has also climbed extensively in Northern Arizona, a region rich in diverse climbing resources. Jacob is already at work with the Access Fund on the management plan revision for the Coconino National Forest. This new plan will affect an enormous number of climbing areas.

LCO 101: Pros and Cons of Three Basic LCO Types

Local climbing organizations (LCOs) are an essential and proven tool for protecting climbing access. But the types of LCOs vary depending on their resources and the issues they are facing. How you form your LCO is a critical question, because it determines how you work and what you are able to accomplish. Take a look at the three basic types of LCOs in this table to help you determine which is right for your group.

	STRUCTURE	PROS	CONS
Informal Group	A group of climbers who recognize an access or stewardship need at their local climbing area.	Flexible, easy to run, no overhead. If desired, a group may be able to register as an unincorporated entity in their state, which entails little additional responsibility.	Limited ability to partner with land managers or enter into agreements with landowners; limited to no ability to fundraise; greater difficulty sustaining the group.
Incorporated Nonprofit Organization	All of the above, plus a formal mission statement, board structure, and organizational bylaws. If accepting donations, a bank account in the organization’s name.	Land manager partnerships and private landowner agreements possible; liability protection; ability to accept donations; greater credibility.	Greater administrative responsibilities (state and federal filing requirements); increased formality and internal time spent running the organization.
Incorporated Nonprofit with 501(c)(3) Status	All of the above, plus incorporation as a nonprofit in your home state, plus tax-exempt 501(c)(3) recognition from the IRS.	Tax exemption and reduced financial burden; ability to extend tax-deductibility to donors; landownership and private landowner agreements possible; grant and loan eligibility; greater credibility and recognition.	Up-front fees and expenses; increased administrative work; potential membership and donor management responsibilities; additional federal filing requirements. Also, see above.

Anatomy of a Responsible ★ CLIMBER ★



THE INSIDE SCOOP: RED ROCKS

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 this new *Inside Scoop*

series, we'll 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: RED ROCKS, NEVADA

Local expert: XAVIER WASIAK, PRESIDENT OF LAS VEGAS CLIMBERS LIAISON COUNCIL (LVCLC)

What's happening on the Red Rocks access front right now?

We're in the middle of working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Red Rocks Wilderness Management Plan—the plan will govern the placement and replacement of fixed anchors in Red Rocks wilderness, so it's a pretty big deal. That effort has been ongoing for many years and has included the hard work of many LVCLC members, the Access Fund, and our climbing rangers with the BLM.

What are some challenges that climbers are facing at Red Rocks?

Our largest long-term issue is bolt replacement. Although many of the great classic routes, both sport and traditional, are safely equipped with modern hardware, there are a large number of really fun and popular routes that are unsafe and past the point of being merely adventurous in their current condition. There are still many 20-plus-year-old, threaded, 3/8" non-stainless steel bolts on many routes at Red Rocks. The local climbing community is working on these replacements.

Parking is also a challenge. Visitor volume has topped one million annually, and that kind of traffic creates some difficulties for climbers at certain pullouts within the one-way loop currently used to access most of the park. The BLM is considering how to expand current parking, but we are also working with them to reestablish a parking area just outside the gates where climbers can meet and carpool.

What's the best option for human waste disposal at Red Rocks?

Human waste disposal is a real challenge in a sensitive desert environment—feces don't break down in the same way that they do in other parts of the country. The best strategy is to pack it out. We've built and installed five waste bag dispensers at locations throughout Red Rocks and work hard to keep them supplied with bags.

How's the relationship between climbers and rangers at Red Rocks?

We are very fortunate to have an extremely collaborative BLM climbing ranger to work with. Years of work have gone into building a positive

relationship with the climbing rangers, who provide us with valuable information and insight about BLM policy and planning. It's critical for locals and visitors alike to show these folks the same respect that they show us.

How would you describe the local ethics of Red Rocks?

Local climbing ethics and the opinions of those who call Red Rocks home are as varied as the type of climbing encountered here. But overall, I would say that we agree that maintaining the adventure character of canyon routes is important. That bouldering or climbing on soft sandstone after a good rain is a source of angst, and so is not respecting culturally sensitive areas and not cleaning up after yourself or your dog.

Any words of wisdom for folks visiting Red Rocks for the first time?

Remember that your actions reflect on all of us. Have fun and enjoy Red Rocks—there is something here for everyone!

Oh, and don't feed the burros! Just kidding. But really, don't. ■

CASTLE CRAGS: FUTURE WILDERNESS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

For many, climbing in Wilderness brings a deep connection to the natural world. This connection is why so many climbers consider themselves conservationists. Climbing remote alpine faces, discovering hidden boulderfields, spotting ephemeral flows of ice: these experiences are only found off the beaten path.

Castle Crag, nestled in the central California wilderness, is one such example of where climbing and Wilderness converge. The area boasts approximately 20 traditional rock routes as well as ice climbing, backcountry skiing, and winter mountaineering. And in 2013, the Wilderness Land Trust reached a deal with Roseburg Forest Products, the Oregon-based timber company who owned the Castle Crag property, to set Castle Crag aside for conservation and recreation. The 1,250-acre parcel sits adjacent to the Castle Crag State Park and Castle Crag Wilderness, making it a natural candidate for integration into the federally protected Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Local climbers reached out to the Access Fund to help, and a unique alliance was formed between the Wilderness Land Trust, Roseburg, the climbing community, and the Forest Service to chart a permanent protection strategy for Castle Crag.

Wilderness Land Trust was willing to purchase and temporarily hold the property for conservation until it could be transferred to the Forest Service for permanent protection. However, it can take three to five years to secure funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program, which typically funds this type of public land acquisition. To purchase and hold the property, Wilderness Land Trust needed short-term financing for the \$2.4 million acquisition.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation came forward with a \$2.325 million loan. And the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC) and Conservation Alliance provided matching loan and grant funds. With initial funding secured, the Wilderness Land Trust closed on the Castle Crag property in December 2013.

In the second phase of this project, Wilderness Land Trust, Access Fund, and our partners will actively lobby for Land and Water Conservation Fund support, which will provide the critical funding to ensure permanent protection of Castle Crag as public land and revolve AFLCC dollars into future conservation projects. Shasta-Trinity National Forest has listed the acquisition as a priority, and letters of support have been delivered to Congress.

The third and final stage of conservation will be integrating a portion of the Castle Crag parcel into the designated Wilderness area, providing another layer of federal protection. The area sits just outside the current Wilderness boundary.

The acquisition of Castle Crag is a win-win for climbing and conservation. It reminds us that climbing shares a long history with Wilderness, and climbers, such as David Brower, were critical to winning passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Today, we are fortunate to have such opportunities to experience untrammeled landscapes, appreciate solitude from a unique vantage, and test physical and inner strength through adventure recreation. This confluence of adventure and deep appreciation of pristine natural conditions draws climbers from around the world to seek such experiences, whether in the wilderness of Zion, the North Cascades, or at Castle Crag. ■

MISSING MENTORS

Can Education Save Access?

by Matt Samet

It's a perfect spring Saturday, and you're slowly getting back into climbing after a long hiatus. You fondly remember Tall Pines, that easy-to-access crag with bolted 5.10s. It was always quiet there—if you saw another party, they were likely people you already knew. It was the perfect place to get in some pitches.

You and an old partner head up. But when you get to Tall Pines, you feel like you've entered an alternate universe: the parking lot is packed with youth-team vans, mountain-club caravans, and cars disgorging small tribes of climbers with dogs and children. The approach trail has become an eroded mega-gully. And you can see ropes draped on nearly every climb. Up at the crag, music blares from iPod stereos; dogs dig holes; kids wander around untended; the groups have commandeered entire sectors; and people are relieving themselves on cliffside bushes.

What happened? How did “these people” get here? Did they come from rock gyms? What if a land manager or a hiker saw this and freaked out—would the whole circus get shut down? This isn't how it used to be...

CLIMBUCOPIA

If this all sounds familiar, you've likely been climbing at least a decade and have seen the demographic

shift, particularly if you climb near urban areas or geographic climbing centers. Brady Robinson, executive director of the Access Fund, thinks much of the change coincided with the rock-gym explosion of the late 1990s. Today, more of us are climbing than ever, and gyms are still booming. Bill Zimmerman, executive director of the trade group Climbing Wall Association (CWA), estimates there are now 500 to 600 US commercial climbing facilities—a big change from, say, the mid-1980s, when there were but a handful. Meanwhile, Rock Gym Pro, a software service for gym management, processed 200,000 waivers in December 2013 alone. Today's gyms are bigger, sleeker, and more professional than those dim, chalk-filled warehouse spaces of yesteryear. They are, in short, pipelines primed to deliver more new climbers than ever. This stands in stark contrast to the relative trickle of us who—back when there was only rock climbing, and not today's subdisciplines of trad, sport, bouldering, and indoor—had to apprentice ourselves to older, wiser mentors.

So what effects has this shift had? When concentrated impact—be it physical (erosion, chalk, damage to



Photo Courtesy of Malcom Daly

vegetation, social trails, etc.), social (negative perception of climbers by nonclimbers, inter-climber conflict), or even legal (liability issues due to accidents)—gets a crag shut down, is it fair to solely blame “gym kids”? Or are we all at fault—does having a larger pool of all climbers inherently mean greater impact and more potential blockheads, and thus more access issues? We need only think of the Red River Gorge's Roadside Crag, which was closed in May 2011 by its *climber* owners due to impact and climber shenanigans. Or Hueco Tanks, where chalk and social trails contributed to the restrictive Public Use Plan in 1998. The problem is real, and it's not going away. As Robinson phrases it, every climbing area has its threshold at which a land manager will shut things down—but we can't know exactly what that threshold is; we can only try to prevent it from happening in other places.

MISSING MENTORS

Perhaps, as many veteran climbers suspect, some of these issues

further arise from a breakdown in the mentorship paradigm, in part caused by how people start climbing now: in gyms.

“When I started rock climbing, I’m not even sure we had a choice of not being mentored,” says Russ Clune, a climber since 1977. In high school, Clune wanted to climb but didn’t know anyone who could take him other than an Eagle Scout at his school who had a rappelling pin. When he went off to college and joined the University of Vermont climbing club, Clune was mentored by a graduate student, George Biehl, about climbing’s technical aspects but also about the crag flora and fauna. “If your mentor is truly well-rounded, you learn about what it is to be outside,” Clune says. “When you’re mentored, your worldview gets bigger.” And from this expanded worldview emerges a deep appreciation of and care for the cliffs. You might likewise learn about the local climbing culture: the prevailing ethic and what that means for the crag’s present and future.

Now contrast this to entering through a rock gym. Here, with the padded floor,

ropes hung, draws at safe clipping intervals, and a waiver on file, you’re free to start climbing immediately. You can bypass many of the steps, from ground schooling to minimum impact, that the pre-gym generations underwent. You need not even have experience in the outdoors—you can be a total urbanite. And that, says Dirk Tyler, an Access Fund board member and a climber of 40 years, is one thing that makes modern-day climbing unique from other outdoor sports: its prime educational venue, gyms, is a safer, more controlled indoor facsimile so true to the physical experience that it gives you the skills to immediately *climb*, though not the deep background that makes you a *climber*. In a way, it’s like someone who’s only driven a go-cart entering a Formula One race.

So whose responsibility is it to address this knowledge gap? For the old guard, faced with the sheer quantity of new climbers, it’s hard to know where to start—who do you

When you’re mentored, your worldview gets bigger. And from this emerges a deep appreciation of and care for the cliffs.

help, and how? Moreover, as the sport becomes more specialized, and as climbers continue to find and develop new areas, we are also being segregated by subsport, geology, and ability. Back when there were fewer venues, you might visit somewhere like Penitente Canyon, Colorado, with 5.10s and 5.13s side by side and even a little bouldering. But today, if you’re bouldering you’ll go to Hueco, HP40, or Rocky Mountain National Park. And if you’re climbing 5.13, you’ll likely hit up Rifle, Colorado, or the Mother Lode, Kentucky, rather than a “general” or moderate crag—you’ll find remote routes far from the maddening crowd, and thus be less able to help new climbers.

“There is a natural lack of overlap between new climbers and people who are more experienced,” says Patrick Pharo of Boulder, Colorado, a former gym kid who sought out proper mentorship in 2001 after seeing his friend deck right in front of him. “It’s going to be hard to unite with a would-be climber and start being a mentor. The people who may be mentors might be actively avoiding the areas where they could be of the most value”—such as Tall Pines, the hypothetical crag in our intro.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Yet with this new landscape also comes more potential for education. And folks in the industry and everyday climbers alike are getting involved.

For starters, the Access Fund is working to revise its perception in the community as the “firefighters” who come to extinguish an already blazing access conflagration, and to move



Photo © Russell Hunter, Courtesy of Colorado Mountain School



Tim Keenan presents Access Fund Gym to Crag Transition material.

more into fire prevention. Robinson sees the Access Fund using its unique ability to bring climbers together to find solutions. He envisions hiring an education coordinator, as well as doing outreach to climbing-gym instructors and employees—training the trainers—and with their help making conservation education more compelling to new climbers, so that participants don't just take the rocks for granted as somewhere to "get the send."

In New Paltz, New York, Tim Keenan, former chair of the Gunks Climbers' Coalition, saw the need for a gym-to-crag interface as well, given the number of new and gym climbers visiting from New York City. And so Keenan and others have been working on the Gym to Crag Transition Program. Partially funded by Access Fund and American Alpine Club grants, the program comprises a

20-minute video interspersed with PowerPoint slides, detailing the things that outdoor climbers should and shouldn't do. "The idea was to create a nurturing environment in which to give newer outdoor climbers best practices when visiting outdoor areas for the first time," says Keenan, including basics like etiquette. The idea had such traction that it's going national this spring (with a customizable slot in PowerPoint for climbers' local areas).

And there continues to be awareness among coaches, instructors, and guides about passing on good lessons. John Myrick, head coach of Team Austin Rock Gym and the University of Texas (UT) Climbing team, has been

educating new climbers for 17 years and climbing since the early 1980s—the mentor days. "I've made it a priority to teach people about leave-no-trace ethics, climbing etiquette, and just basic crag courtesy," says Myrick, "as well as instructed my athletes and other educators about the importance of stewardship and preserving access." For example, for his UT team and for local high school teams, team members can get a reduced-rate membership at the Austin Rock Gym only if they volunteer for things like crag cleanup or conservation work through the Central Texas Mountaineers. And out in the field, Myrick works to constantly reinforce the code of ethics and etiquette. "With kids, they're just kids, so you constantly have to tell them," says Myrick. "They're not trying to act bad on purpose; it just takes them a while to learn these things."

SPEAK UP

Finally, it pays to remember that just because we're seeing these

issues at popular or urban crags, things are not this way everywhere. Many small, local climbing scenes remain just as mentor-centric as ever, perhaps due to geographic isolation, staunch ethics, and smaller climber populations. Andrew Tower, who grew up in Oklahoma, says he and his fellow newbies deliberately sought the counsel of their elders when they first hit the rocks in 2004, both because the cliffs are hard to find and the routes are notoriously runout. "We didn't try to lead until much later," he says, until the old guard

"It's the responsibility of the experienced to step in and help the inexperienced."

had mentored them. "The fear of dying kept us from jumping in too quickly."

Which brings us to our final educator: you, the experienced climber.

"It's the responsibility of the experienced to step in and help the inexperienced," says Clune. "It's way too easy to walk by, but accidents and disrespect for property get a place closed." So, if you see something, say something. Do what Tyler does, and if you see a bonehead maneuver that's going to get someone killed or torpedo access, ask, "Do you mind if I make a suggestion?" Seek to instill new climbers with a sense of personal responsibility, just like your mentors did for you.

"The most that can happen if you open your mouth is you get rejected," Tyler says. "But the best that can happen is you can save a life or a climbing area." ■

Matt Samet, of Boulder, Colorado, is the author of the Crag Survival Handbook, a 270-page book from The Mountaineers (2013) on the unspoken rules of climbing, as compiled from the sport's top experts.

North Cascades National Park Skirts Guidelines from Director's Order #41

In August of 2012, a local climber hand drilled a new two-bolt rappel anchor to improve the hazardous descent off Forbidden Peak in North Cascades National Park (NOCA) in Washington State. Six days later, NOCA staff removed the newly installed bolts, along with a long-established bolted rappel station, leaving the descent route a surprise for unsuspecting climbers.

Climbers have been enjoying incredible backcountry alpine experiences in the park since the early 1900s, using bolts sparingly since the 1960s, and complying with the established guidelines of the federally designated Wilderness area. The climber who placed the new anchor on the descent of Forbidden Peak was not aware that NOCA prohibited new bolts, because the internal policy was not documented. Therefore, NOCA's decision to remove the anchors without notifying the public was both confusing and alarming.

However at that time, the National Park Service (NPS) had yet to issue any national guidance on the use of fixed anchors in designated Wilderness, leaving it up to individual parks to interpret the Wilderness Act and other federal regulations on their own.

But in May 2013, the NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis signed Director's

Order #41 (DO#41), clarifying the agency's policy for the placement of fixed anchors in designated Wilderness. Climbers around the country breathed a collective sigh of relief that the new NPS policy eliminated the threat of a national ban on anchors in Wilderness, stating that a fixed anchor "does not necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness or violate the Wilderness Act," and that fixed anchors "should be rare" and that "authorization will be required."

This new national guidance from the NPS made NOCA's next decision even more alarming—three months after DO#41 was issued, NOCA staff placed a moratorium on bolts in designated Wilderness—with no public input or process. According to NOCA staff, the bolt moratorium institutionalized the longstanding, undocumented policy to ban bolts, despite bolts having been responsibly placed and used in NOCA wilderness for over 50 years. NOCA justifies the bolt moratorium through an unconventional interpretation of a federal regulation that prohibits damaging mineral resources. However, that interpretation contradicts DO#41 (which interprets that regulation to prohibit chipping, gluing, and gardening—not bolts), is not shared by other national parks, and has not stood up in court. But perhaps most

disturbing to the climbing community and wilderness advocates is that these decisions have been made in a vacuum, without public input or well-substantiated analysis.

In January 2014, as part of a broad-based collaboration of 12 climbing and wilderness organizations, we asked NOCA to provide justification and notice to the public before future administrative actions regarding fixed anchors are taken. We also asked to collaborate on a strategy to establish a fixed anchor authorization process, as well as to assess the current state of the Forbidden Peak descent route. However, NOCA has indicated that they don't plan to address fixed anchor management until they update their 1989 Wilderness Management Plan, which will take an estimated three to five years to finalize.

North Cascades National Park's fixed anchor policy creates harmful precedent and identifies them as an anomaly within the National Park System. The Access Fund hopes that NOCA will become open to public input and work with the Access Fund and local climbers to establish a strategy to fairly manage fixed anchors in accordance with national-level policy standards. Stay tuned as the Access Fund continues to work on this precedent-setting issue. ■

2013 SHARP END AWARDS

For leadership and activism in preserving climbing access and the climbing environment.

Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award JONATHAN KNIGHT

Access Fund is proud to present Jonathan Knight with a Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years



of climbing advocacy, stewardship, and service in the Wasatch Range and Salt Lake City area. For more than a decade, Jonathan has been committed to preserving the area's climbing through hands-on stewardship projects, land manager partnerships, and volunteer service on the board of Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLCA). His many years of work at numerous little-known local areas, as well as major, renowned areas such as American Fork, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Joe's Valley have secured and sustained climbing access for Salt Lake City's active and growing climbing community.

Bebie Leadership Award TIM KEENAN

Access Fund is proud to give Tim Keenan a Bebie Leadership Award.



Tim is the former cochair of Gunks Climbers' Coalition (GCC) and an Access Fund Regional Coordinator. His proactive leadership of GCC has helped the organization grow its membership, host numerous Adopt a Crag events, and strengthen its partnerships with the Mohonk Preserve, Minnewaska State Park, and other key Gunks-area landowners. Recognizing the need for a new approach to stewardship education for new climbers, Tim created an exciting

new educational program for climbers transitioning to outdoor climbing from the gym. The Gym to Crag Transition Program will help instill positive behaviors that preserve climbing access and the environment.

Sharp End Award MARION HUTCHISON

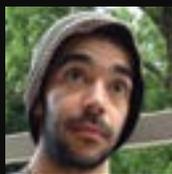
It is Access Fund's honor to present Marion Hutchison a Sharp End Award for his longstanding dedication to



protecting Oklahoma climbing. In the early 1990s Marion's work kept climbing open in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and helped create the Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition (WMCC). In 2001, with WMCC and Access Fund, Marion led the purchase and transfer of Baldy Point to Quartz Mountain State Park. In 2002 Marion received Access Fund's Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award, though perhaps too soon, because his work wasn't done! In 2007, US Fish and Wildlife started revising the refuge management plan, potentially threatening access. Marion led another successful, multiyear effort to retain climbing access. In the process he helped set a positive national precedent for compatible climbing and wildlife management.

Sharp End Award PAUL VIDAL

Access Fund is thrilled to award Paul Vidal with a Sharp End Award for his leadership in protecting Red River Gorge climbing. Paul is a longtime volunteer and board member with



Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC), diligently working to preserve climbing on public and private lands in the Red. He's spent countless hours helping to organize trail days, putting on the annual Rocktoberfest, meeting with land managers, and building positive relationships with local residents and businesses. In 2012, Paul spearheaded the Miller Fork acquisition, working with local landowners and Access Fund to negotiate RRGCC's successful purchase of the new Miller Fork Recreational Preserve.

Sharp End Award JEFF ENGEL

Access Fund is honored to present Jeff Engel with a Sharp End Award for decades



of committed climbing advocacy and stewardship in Minnesota and surrounding areas. In the 1990s Jeff and other local climbers were instrumental in keeping climbing areas like Red Wing and Willow River open to climbing. He later worked with the City of Sandstone to open Robinson Park to rock and ice climbing, helping turn the area into a Midwestern ice destination. In 2012, Jeff initiated the purchase of Sandstone, a 108-acre tract of private land containing some of the finest sandstone boulders in the Midwest. His proactive work brought the private landowners, Minnesota Climbers Association, Access Fund, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources together to purchase the property for transfer to Minnesota State Parks.

**Sharp End Award
JASON HAAS**

The Access Fund honors Jason Haas for his leadership in protecting climbing access along the Colorado Front



Range. Jason volunteers as a board member with the Flatirons Climbing Council and Boulder Climbing Community, dedicating his time to stewardship projects, access issues, and fixed anchor replacement.

Jason's positive work extends into the South Platte, home of his most recent climbing obsessions, where he played a critical role in partnering with a landowner at Thunder Ridge to educate climbers about access. His proactive stewardship work can be seen at other local crags such as Clear Creek Canyon and Golden Cliffs.

**Sharp End Award
ROCCO BOCCHICCHIO**

The Access Fund is proud to present Rocco Bocchicchio with a Sharp End award for his dedicated



work educating climbers on Leave No Trace ethics and promoting the Access Fund at gyms across the country. Rocco created a program at Brooklyn Boulders (BKB) indoor climbing facilities, where he is the head instructor, which allows climbers to become members of the Access Fund along with their gym memberships. He also championed ethical climbing education alongside climbing-instruction courses at BKB gyms, helping to create a new generation of climbers in the Northeast that understand how their behavior impacts

access to climbing areas. Rocco also guides at Hueco Tanks every season and includes climbing ethics education in his tours.



**Sharp End Award
TORNE VALLEY CLIMBERS
COALITION**

Access Fund is pleased to recognize the Torne Valley Climbers Coalition (TVCC) for their exemplary grassroots organizing and advocacy, which successfully reopened the Powerlinez climbing area in Torne Valley, New York. Powerlinez was closed in 2011 due to concerns about increased climbing use from the area's multiple landowners. A core team of individuals formed TVCC and began working with the local climbing community and Powerlinez's three landowners. TVCC's patient, professional, and cooperative approach reopened Powerlinez in 2013 and serves as a model for successful grassroots climbing advocacy.



**Sharp End Award
PETZL**

The Access Fund is honored to present Petzl with a Sharp End Award for their many years of support and commitment to preserving and protecting the climbing environment. A generous supporter of the Access Fund since our grassroots beginnings, Petzl has helped the Access Fund

grow stronger and expand our advocacy and land acquisition programs. As one of the original investors in the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign, Petzl has helped the Access Fund purchase 14 climbing areas since 2009. Petzl has also hosted the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Moab for the past 10 years, donating all proceeds to the Access Fund.



**Land Conservation Award
MINNESOTA CLIMBERS
ASSOCIATION**

The Access Fund is excited to present Minnesota Climbers Association (MCA) with a Land Conservation Award for its dedication to protecting the Sandstone bouldering area. MCA originally partnered with the landowner to allow climbing, but access was threatened when the property was listed for sale in 2012. MCA immediately stepped up and the landowners gave MCA an opportunity to purchase the property. MCA found a great local partner, the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota (PTCM), to purchase and hold the property (with funding help from the Access Fund) for transfer to Minnesota State Parks. ■

Corporate Partners

SCARPA has generously supported the Access Fund for over 20 years. Last year, SCARPA went above and beyond by giving 10 percent of the proceeds from their annual sample sale to the Access Fund. This donation went to support trail repair after severe flooding in Colorado destroyed climbing access trails across the Front Range. We thank SCARPA for their dedication to keeping climbing areas open and to conserving the climbing environment.



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+

Jeep® Brand/Chrysler Group, LLC

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

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

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

The North Face
Planet Granite
Touchstone Climbing, Inc

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
Osprey
Outdoor Research
Patagonia
Petzl

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

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

GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

Carhartt
Mountain Gear
Rock/Creek
Sterling Rope Company

GOLD - \$5,000+

Sender Films
The Spot Bouldering Gym

SILVER - \$2,500+

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
SuperTopo.com

MAJOR - \$1,000+

Backwoods
CAMP USA
Climb Max Mountaineering
The Crash Pad
Drive Current
Evolve Sports
Fixed Pin Publishing
Louder Than 11
Moosejaw
Mountain Khakis
New Belgium Brewing Company
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
SMAC Climbing, LLC
Treasure Mountain Inn
Upslope Brewing Company

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Aiguille Rock Climbing Center
Alpine Ascents International
Alpine Endeavors
Armaid
DMM Excalibur
Desert Rock Sports
Eldorado Wall Company
GearEXPRESS.com
Got it! Real Estate and Development
Green Peak Promotions
Gregory Packs

Head Rush Technologies
International Alpine Guides
Julbo
KNS Reps, Inc.
Mountain Tools
Outdoor Utah Adventure
Red Chili
Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
Stone Age Climbing Gym
Tahoe Oral Surgery and Implant Center
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS
Trailspace.com
Travel Country Outdoors
Verde PR & Consulting
Vertical Endeavors
Wes & Gold
Xcellence

SUPPORTING - \$250+

Amarillo Rock Climbing House
Cadillac Mountain Sports
Climb Nashville
Forest Oil Corporation
The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gyms
Law Firm for Non-Profits
Mesa Rim Climbing & Fitness Center
Schneider Management Group, Inc.
Sunrift Adventures
Ute Mountaineer
Wahl Clipper Corporation

IN-KIND PARTNERS

Alpinist Magazine
Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
Rock & Ice Magazine
Omega Pacific
Schoeller



Clockwise: Sunset, Buttermilk Country, mixed media collage | The artist, Vanessa Compton, photo by Sam Davis Photography | Vanna White Aloha Sunrise, Hueco Tanks | © Vanessa Compton

Vanessa Compton

A Vermont native, Vanessa Compton fell in love with climbing 13 years ago in Cochise Stronghold during a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) semester that changed the trajectory of her life. In 2001 she moved west and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from CU-Boulder. After living and teaching art in Colorado for nearly a decade, Vanessa transitioned into a largely nomadic lifestyle focused on climbing and art. In describing her art, Vanessa says, “Surrealistic landscapes have featured predominantly in my work. Time is meant to be on the loose, with past, present, and future existing simultaneously. A major inspiration is migration. I focus on the luxation of figures and structures through landscapes of epic quality and interminable horizons. These are beautiful, dislocated worlds that live behind the gauzy film of dreams.”

Vanessa currently spends part of the year working in her studio in Vermont’s remote Northeast and the other part of the year guiding in Hueco Tanks and climbing throughout the American West. To view more of Vanessa’s work, visit www.KrinshawStudios.com. ■



Protect America's Climbing

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

CONSERVATION TEAM Spring Schedule 2014



Mike and Amanda will start their 2014 tour in the Midwest before heading south. Stay tuned to their Facebook page for updates on their current location and opportunities to get out and help them with some trail work: www.facebook.com/conservationteam.

March 27–29: Holy Boulders, IL

April 10–12: Deep Creek, TN

April 17–19: Linville Gorge, NC

April 24–26: Miller Fork, KY

May 8–10: Dickerson, MD

May 15–17: Doylestown, PA

May 22–24: Ragged Mountain, CT

May 29–31: Rumney, NH

June 12–19: Miss Palisades, IL

June 19–21: Sandstone, MN

June 26–28: Black Hills, SD