

VERTICAL **TIMES**

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND



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introduction

Economies are supposed to serve human ends, not the other way round. We forget at our peril that markets make a good servant, a bad master and a worse religion.

– Amory Lovins

This October, I attended the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) Rendezvous in Boston, Massachusetts, an annual leadership conference for executives and strategic staff in the outdoor industry. The economy and the election dominated most of the floor. Environmental activist Robert Kennedy Jr. spoke about the connections between the environment, sustainability and the economy. Economist Clyde Prestowitz explained the causes and context of our current financial crisis in plain language. And trend spotter Marian Salzman predicted several new trends for the United States, including the rise of simple camping and “staycations” (staying at home or day tripping to local attractions during vacations) as families try to minimize travel and equipment costs. I was impressed with the quality and gravity of these discussions; I came away with a deeper appreciation of the challenges ahead, but also a sense of cautious optimism that the industry and the Access Fund would pull through unscathed.

This summer, I witnessed an alpine version of the staycation while hiking in to climb the Sabre in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). I met two climbers coming up the trail with huge packs. They had aborted their trip to the Bugaboos in Canada because of high gas prices and decided to stay local in RMNP for a week and *pretend* they were in the Bugaboos. They were having a blast and recommended that I try it sometime.

RMNP might not be your backyard crag – it certainly wasn’t mine for most of my life. My first top-rope climbs and leads were at Blue Mounds State Park in Minnesota. I’ll never forget the night my best friend and I rigged lawn chairs with accessory cord and slept hanging twenty feet below the lip of the cliff line. Those were the experiences that led to a lifetime of fun and adventure.

Backyard crags are important to climbers, perhaps now more than ever. That’s why we’ve decided to focus on them in this issue of the Vertical Times. It’s also why the Access Fund works to conserve all climbing areas—large and small.

With your help, the Access Fund will be here working to keep your climbing areas open long after the financial crisis has passed. Please consider making an additional donation or giving the gift of access this holiday season. It’s an investment that will keep you climbing for years to come.

Thanks for all you do and have a great holiday season.



Brady Robinson
Executive Director



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ACCESS FUND HEADQUARTERS

STAFF

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

 Courtney Bartels • Membership Manager
 303.545.6772x106, courtney@accessfund.org

 Amy Ansari • Grassroots Coordinator
 303.545.6772 x105, amy@accessfund.org

 Ellen Jardine • Business & Finance Manager
 303.545.6772 x107, ellen@accessfund.org

 Jason Keith • Policy Director
 303.545.6772 x102, jason@accessfund.org

 Randy Levensaler • Media Manager
 303.545.6772 x103, randy@accessfund.org

 Director of Marketing & Business Development
 303.545.6772 x100

 Jason Smith • Development Director
 303.545.6772 x113, smith@accessfund.org

 Access Director • 303.545.6772 x112

 Judy Ware • Office Associate
 303.545.6772 x104, judy@accessfund.org

GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer

Alli Rainey Wendling climbing in Maple Canyon, UT.
 | © Kyler Deutmeyer

Third Round Grants Awarded

Access Fund Awards over \$11,000 in Climbing Preservation Grants for Acquisitions and Conservation

The Access Fund continues its support of grassroots climbing advocacy and conservation projects by awarding over \$11,000 during its third Climbing Preservation Grants cycle of 2008. The grants will help fund land acquisitions and trail reconstruction. Presented three times annually, AF's Climbing Preservation Grants provide financial assistance for local climber activism and protection of the climbing environment in the United States.

The following grants were awarded this round:

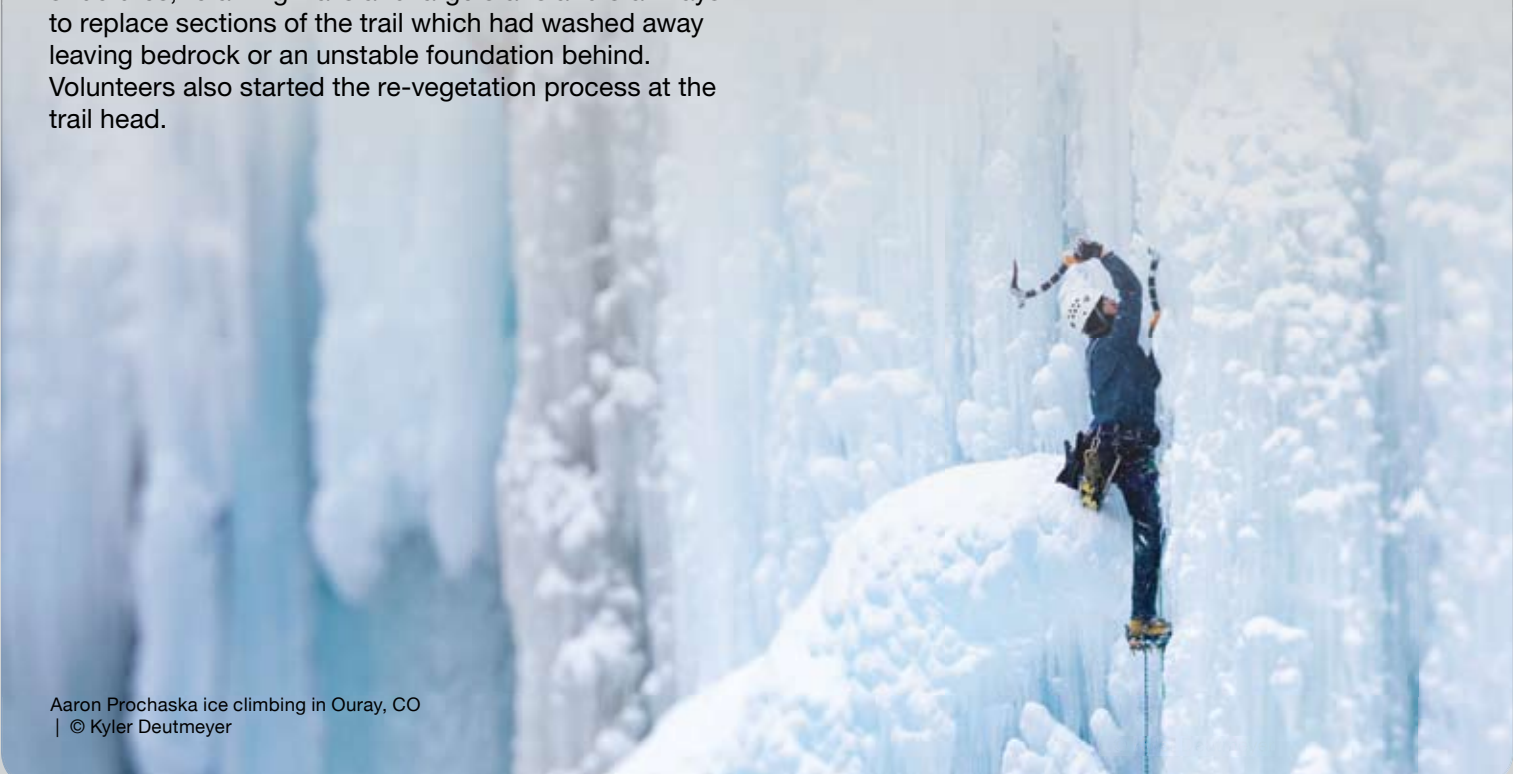
Utah Open Lands Castleton Tower trail project Moab, UT

Utah Open Lands received an additional grant to help rebuild the Castleton Tower trail. A late summer storm caused major damage to the trail, completely eroding it in parts. The trail reconstruction project took place as part of a three-day Adopt-a-Crag event this past fall.

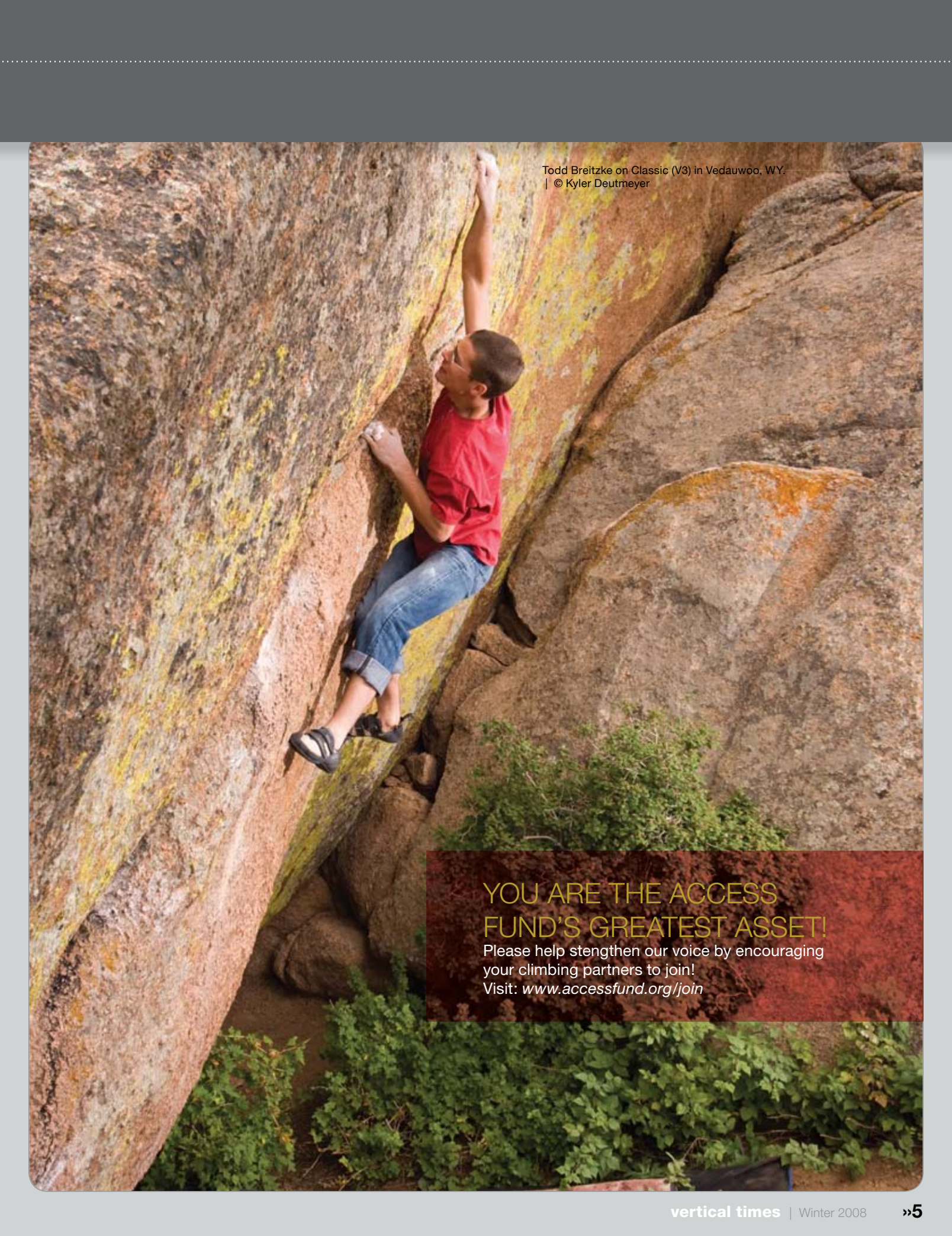
Dave Erley, Field Director for Utah Open Lands reports that the Castleton Tower Adopt-a-Crag event was a big success. Under direction from the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), volunteers repaired the trail and have it in working order. The work focused on building technical structures, retaining walls and large stairs and stairways to replace sections of the trail which had washed away leaving bedrock or an unstable foundation behind. Volunteers also started the re-vegetation process at the trail head.

Western CO Climber's Coalition Mothers Buttress land acquisition Grand Junction, CO

A grant was awarded to Access Fund Affiliate Western Colorado Climber's Coalition for the purchase of the Upper and Middle Mothers Buttress crags in Unaweep Canyon, Mesa County, CO. The crags were purchased from the current landowner who has guaranteed an easement to access the area and secure climbing here indefinitely. This parcel is near land currently owned by the Access Fund.



Aaron Prochaska ice climbing in Ouray, CO
| © Kyler Deutmeyer



Todd Breitzke on Classic (V3) in Vedauwoo, WY.
| © Kyler Deutmeyer

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FUND'S GREATEST ASSET!**

Please help strengthen our voice by encouraging
your climbing partners to join!
Visit: www.accessfund.org/join

82 Crag Bolton, VT

82 CRAG IN SAFE HANDS, UPPER WEST BOLTON IN SIGHT

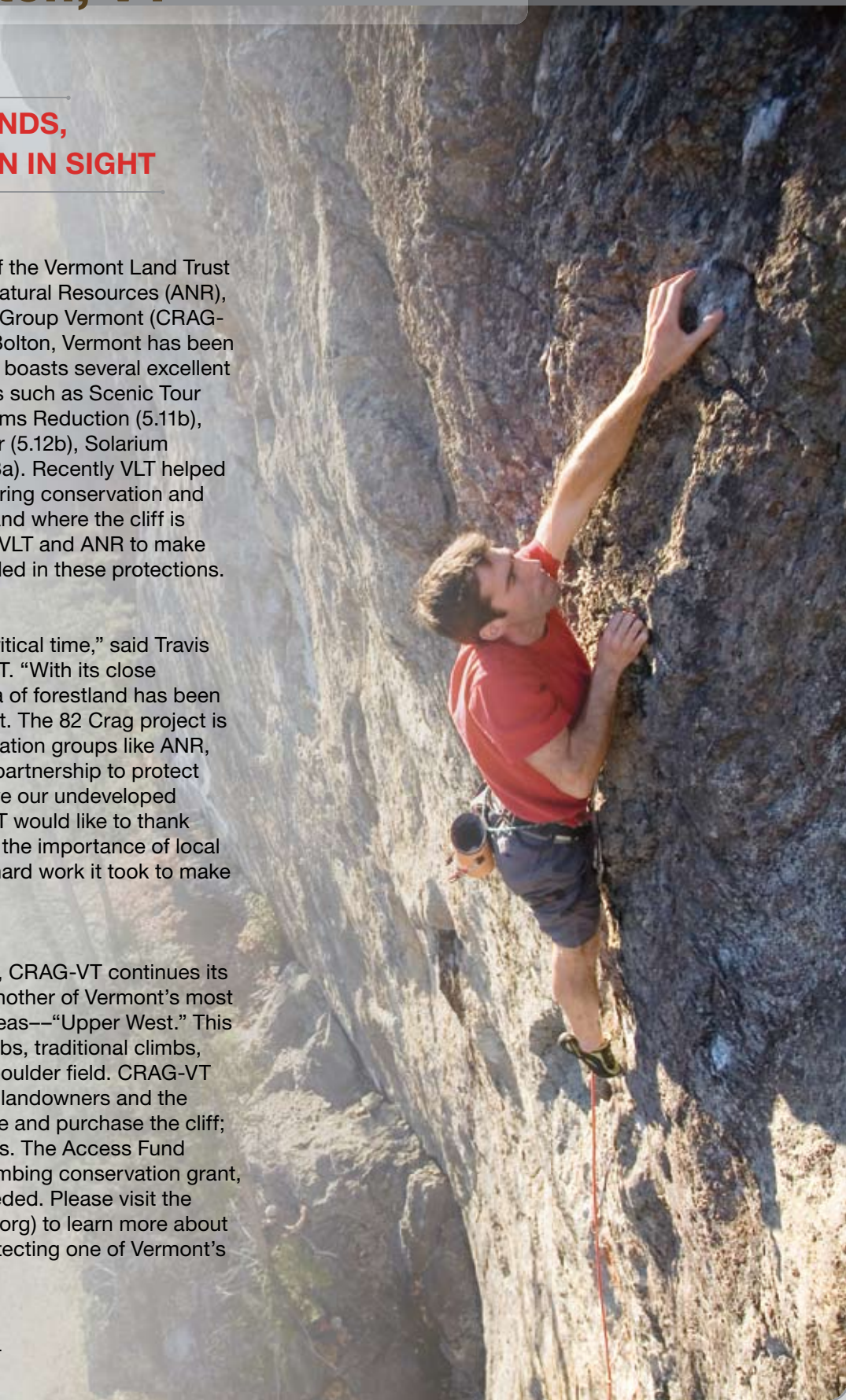
By Travis Peckham, CRAG-VT

Through the combined efforts of the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), and Climbing Resource Access Group Vermont (CRAG-VT), climbing at the 82 Crag in Bolton, Vermont has been permanently protected. 82 Crag boasts several excellent routes, including many new lines such as Scenic Tour (5.8), Year of the Dog (5.10c), Arms Reduction (5.11b), Afro Samurai (5.11d), Doggfather (5.12b), Solarium (5.12b), and Steppin' Razor (5.13a). Recently VLT helped ANR execute an easement ensuring conservation and public recreation rights on the land where the cliff is located. CRAG-VT worked with VLT and ANR to make sure climbing access was included in these protections.

"These protections come at a critical time," said Travis Peckham, President of CRAG-VT. "With its close proximity to Burlington, this area of forestland has been especially at risk of development. The 82 Crag project is a great example of how conservation groups like ANR, VLT and CRAG-VT can work in partnership to protect Vermont's climbing and conserve our undeveloped lands." He continued, "CRAG-VT would like to thank VLT and ANR for understanding the importance of local climbing resources and for the hard work it took to make this a project a success."

With 82 Crag now in safe hands, CRAG-VT continues its work to acquire and conserve another of Vermont's most popular and historic climbing areas—"Upper West." This 200-foot cliff features sport climbs, traditional climbs, ice climbs, and an exceptional boulder field. CRAG-VT recently received approval from landowners and the Bolton Select Board to subdivide and purchase the cliff; funding is one of the final hurdles. The Access Fund supported this project with a climbing conservation grant, but significant funds are still needed. Please visit the CRAG-VT website (www.cragvt.org) to learn more about how you can get involved in protecting one of Vermont's climbing treasures.

Encryption 5.12c at the 82 Crag in Bolton, VT.
| © Dave Vuono / davevuono.com



Williamson Rock, CA

THREE YEARS LATER 'TEMPORARY' CLIMBING CLOSURE CONTINUES AT CALIFORNIA'S WILLIAMSON ROCK

By Troy Mahr, Friends of Williamson Rock

As reported in the Access Fund's recent E-news, the Angeles National Forest (ANF) is going on four frustrating years of a "temporary" climbing closure at Williamson Rock near Los Angeles. Williamson Rock is the premier sport climbing area in the Los Angeles area, hosting classic routes such as Feast of Friends (5.9), Silvery Scream (10b/c), Dream Speed (5.11a), The Labyrinth (5.11c), Carpe Diem (5.12b), and Carpe Garden (5.13a/b). The ANF implemented the Williamson Rock climbing ban to protect critical habitat of the mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF) while they studied options for an alternate access trail. Unfortunately, while climbers have complied with the access prohibition, the USFS has failed to obtain funding to pay for an environmental analysis.

The Access Fund and Friends of Williamson Rock need you to write letters to Congress and the ANF to urge funding for an environmental analysis of an alternate trail approach to Williamson Rock. Ideally, a new trail will both protect the MYLF and restore climbing at Williamson Rock. Climbers have been waiting nearly four years for the ANF to address this "temporary" closure. Unfortunately, we're still waiting. It is apparent that the ANF will do nothing without climber activism. For a sample letter to the Angeles National Forest Supervisor Jody Noiron, see the Access Fund's E-news at www.accessfund.org/news/en.php. For a sample letter to Congress, go to the Friends of Williamson Rock website, www.williamsonrock.org/blog, or the AF's action alert page: www.accessfund.org/display/page/AA/108.

Paul Dusatko on Secret Garden 5.12b
Williamson Rock, CA.
| © Troy Mahr



{BACKYARD CRAGS}

By Laura Snider

“A ROCK PILE CEASES TO BE A ROCK PILE THE MOMENT A SINGLE MAN CONTEMPLATES IT, BEARING WITHIN HIM THE IMAGE OF A CATHEDRAL.”

~ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY, FLIGHT TO ARRAS, 1942

Before the New River escapes Bluestone Dam and plummets through the gorge in a violent frenzy of foam—which long ago created the miles of sandstone cliffs that rim the canyon—it wanders more placidly across a stretch of land on West Virginia’s southern border.

you’d never include Bozoo on an itinerary for an east-coast sendfest, there isn’t a guidebook that I know of ... and I can’t imagine my climbing life without it.

Home to thousands of routes, the New River Gorge is now a playground that attracts world-class climbers (when it’s not raining, of course). But upstream, buried in thick Appalachian hardwoods, is an extension of the same bulletproof, glowing-orange sandstone that made “The New” famous. It’s complicated to get to Bozoo Rocks. You’ve got to wiggle through a handful of nowhere towns and turn at the last outpost in Virginia before you cross the state line to the “other” Virginia. Pass the Dairy Queen. Turn near the giant statue of a rooster. Keep going over the state line, past the hog pen and by the old man who never (ever) leaves his porch. Turn on Bozoo Road. Park in the big grassy meadow by the bend in the New River where the water is wide and gentle.


The routes are short and there aren’t many of them. I hear the bouldering is decent, but I prefer tying in. Bozoo would never make it on a list of top crags, you’d never include it on an itinerary for an east-coast sendfest, there isn’t a guidebook that I know of ... and I can’t imagine my climbing life without it.

I’ve been climbing for more than 13 years now, and I’ve done my time in some of our country’s must-send areas. I’ve road-tripped across the map with the goal of not touching a route that wasn’t a three-star classic. But those routes like the Primrose Dihedrals and the Nose of El Capitan—which are, without question, astonishing—will never replace Bozoo in my heart.

Bozoo is the nearest crag to my hometown of Blacksburg, VA. Bozoo is my first trad lead. It’s my first 5.10 climb and the first time I ever set up a top rope on my own. Bozoo is a quick trip to the crag after class on a sunny Thursday. It’s my first climbing partners and my first whipper. It’s a dip in the river after a long day of short sends and the first time I experimented with aid climbing. It’s the foundation of everything that’s come since. Bozoo is also on private property, and its access is not guaranteed. (Though as far as I know, we climbers haven’t screwed it up yet.)

Everyone has their backyard crag: some prouder than others, but all of them important to the climbers that use them. And they’re important to the Access Fund, too. “The Access Fund exists to keep climbing areas open,” says Brady Robinson, Access Fund’s executive director. “That includes famous areas which attract climbers worldwide to small little cliffs used only by locals. We value the diversity of the climbing experience, from big walls to sport climbs, from top roping crags to little obscure boulder fields, and we work to protect them all.”

We value the diversity of the climbing experience, from big walls to sport climbs, from top roping crags to little obscure boulder fields, and we work to protect them all.

A photograph of a person bouldering on a large, light-colored rock formation in a desert canyon. The person is wearing a blue shirt and brown pants. The background features several Joshua trees and a clear blue sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Rachel Myhre Hayne bouldering barefoot in the outback of Joshua Tree, CA.
| © Kyler Deutmeyer

In the nearly two decades since the Access Fund was formed, we have supported climbers from every corner of the country. We don't always succeed, and climbers don't always get everything they want. But we know when climbers don't organize, failure is almost certain.

Here are a few areas where the locals have organized with guidance, advice and sometimes a little cash from the Access Fund.

LOST HORSE CANYON MONTANA

Told with the help of Steve Porcella

THE CRAG

Lost Horse has two worlds: the spectacular bouldering in the canyon bottom and the big granite cliffs packed with splitter cracks and stout mixed trad. Set in an idyllic location next to a blue ribbon trout stream, Lost Horse has plenty of places for climbers to camp and soak up the wild Montana beauty. Upwards of 100 routes now exist with many more waiting to be explored. Every year Lost Horse Canyon hosts the annual Montana Boulder Fest, where winners walk away with swag, prizes, and beer. Win or lose, climbers can count on a night of good-natured socializing around a bonfire.

FROM THE MOUTH OF A LOCAL

"Known statewide for the high quality granite, splitter cracks, roofs, and intimidating headwalls, the Lost Horse crags offer mostly routes in the 5.10 to 5.12 range, typically 100 foot and longer," says Porcella. "Set in the spectacular Lost Horse Canyon, the view is always great, the crowds few and far between, and, of course, abundant camping and no fees."

HELP FROM THE ACCESS FUND

Access to Lost Horse is threatened by the Forest Service and Ravalli County, both of whom are interested in mining the canyon for rock and rip rap. Local climbers put up a big fight with the help of the Access Fund, blocking the mining proposal temporarily, but the struggle isn't over.

{BACKYARD CRAGS}

Continued

{AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA, CALIFORNIA

Told with the help of Aaron Rough

THE CRAG

The climbs at Auburn State Recreation Area creep up the limestone faces of an idle quarry, taking advantage of the giant scars left from pulling the rock out of the canyon. The area, which is a prized backyard crag for Sacramento climbers, was lovingly developed around 2000, with climbers hauling out the junk left in the quarry, including metal drilling cores and spare tires.

FROM THE MOUTH OF A LOCAL

“We hit the fifty-route mark and realized that, while this place would never be Yosemite, it certainly could fulfill the roll of ‘dearly cherished local choss’ quite nicely,” says Rough. “Now don’t get me wrong, I love perfect bullet stone, amazing features, and park-and-climb access as much as the next guy. But sometimes it is not always about how perfect the rock or climbing is, but rather how perfect of a day can be had just hanging out with your friends and family, talking, joking, and escaping the pressures of everyday life.”

HELP FROM THE ACCESS FUND

For the last five years, climbing at Auburn State Recreation Area has been banned. Managers say there are liability issues, too few parking spaces, and loose rock. Earlier this year, local climbers decided to organize and try to do something about it. CRAGS (Climbing Resource Advocates for Greater Sacramento) is getting support from the Access Fund in their efforts to get the area’s management plan amended to include climbing as a legitimate use.

{UNAWEEP CANYON COLORADO

Told with the help of Matt Lisenby

THE CRAG

Unaweep Canyon is a quiet granite playground in the high desert often overlooked by climbers in western Colorado as they cruise by on their way to the Black Canyon, Rifle or Indian Creek. It’s still a surprise to pull up to Unaweep and find another car in the parking lot. The climbing there can be puzzling—the crack systems are rarely straightforward, and features that are usually obvious, like dihedrals and cracks, merge and cross at odd angles and confound route-finding.

FROM THE MOUTH OF A LOCAL

“You get that guilty feeling in Unaweep, like you’re getting away with something,” says Lisenby. “Without fail, every time I go to Unaweep, I come back saying we should go up there more often. Unaweep is vast, and there are plenty of walls without routes or with so few routes compared to its potential that it’s just ridiculous.”

HELP FROM THE ACCESS FUND

The Access Fund supported the Western Colorado Climbers Coalition in its quest to purchase the parts of Unaweep on private land with a \$10,000 grant. The climbing community now owns two tracks of land, guaranteeing continued access to some of the most popular cliffs—the Sunday Wall and Upper and Middle Mothers Buttress. Almost all of the bottom land is privately owned and has traditionally been accessed by the grace of the landowners, but generations of climbers change, owners move, and the status of access could be lost, which is why the WCCC remains an important local force.

Backyard crags are many—
Access Fund staffers
are few—so access to your
favorite crag depends on
locals keeping an eye open
for any issues.

BOAT ROCK GEORGIA

Told with the help of Brad McLeod

THE CRAG

In southwest Atlanta, hemmed in by urban sprawl, lies an enclave of lush green land that is sprinkled with coarse granite boulders. Climbers escaping the city for a little green time are greeted with thought-provoking problems that rely on balance, friction, careful technique and a whole lot of shoe rubber. The boulderfield, just a 15-minute drive from downtown Atlanta, is more than an outdoor rock gym. The patch of southern hardwood forest is full of rich mosses, azaleas and even the occasional blooming orchid, and it's the perfect place to take a deep breath (and send a hard problem) on your way home from work.

FROM THE MOUTH OF A LOCAL

"Really, it's an okay boulderfield," says Brad McLeod, who was instrumental in saving Boat Rock from destruction. "But to us, it's a five-star boulderfield. You can get out of the concrete jungle, and drop yourself into this little magical forest."

HELP FROM THE ACCESS FUND

When Boat Rock was threatened with the voracious appetite of developers, the Southeastern Climbers Coalition pulled together to buy the land themselves. Climbers from all over Atlanta came out of the woodwork to come up with the funds needed to buy nearly eight acres of Boat Rock and keep the granite boulders from being crushed under the foundation of a new house. More land has since been donated, and climbers own just over 30 acres of Boat Rock. Besides donating \$10,000 to the cause, the support of the Access Fund gave the effort a "shot in the arm," McLeod said, legitimizing the effort and pulling out even more support locally.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD?

Backyard crags are many—Access Fund staffers are few—so access to your favorite crag depends on locals keeping an eye open for any issues. "The importance of local climbing activism cannot be overstated," says Jason Keith, Access Fund policy director. "This is especially true for your own personal backyard crags where you may be the only one that knows about them." Organizing can be daunting, but don't worry, the Access Fund has your back.

Contact Access Fund staff at 303-545-6772 or visit www.accessfund.org/resources.

5th Annual Yosemite Facelift

5TH ANNUAL YOSEMITE FACELIFT A HUGE SUCCESS!

By Ken Yager, Yosemite Climbing Association

Two thousand twenty-one people showed up for the 5th annual Yosemite Facelift to help clean up Yosemite National Park. This event is organized by the Yosemite Climbing Association in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and Delaware North Parks and Resorts at Yosemite. The Yosemite Facelift is a California Coastal Cleanup event, a National Public Lands Day event, and the largest Access Fund Adopt-a-Crag event in the country.

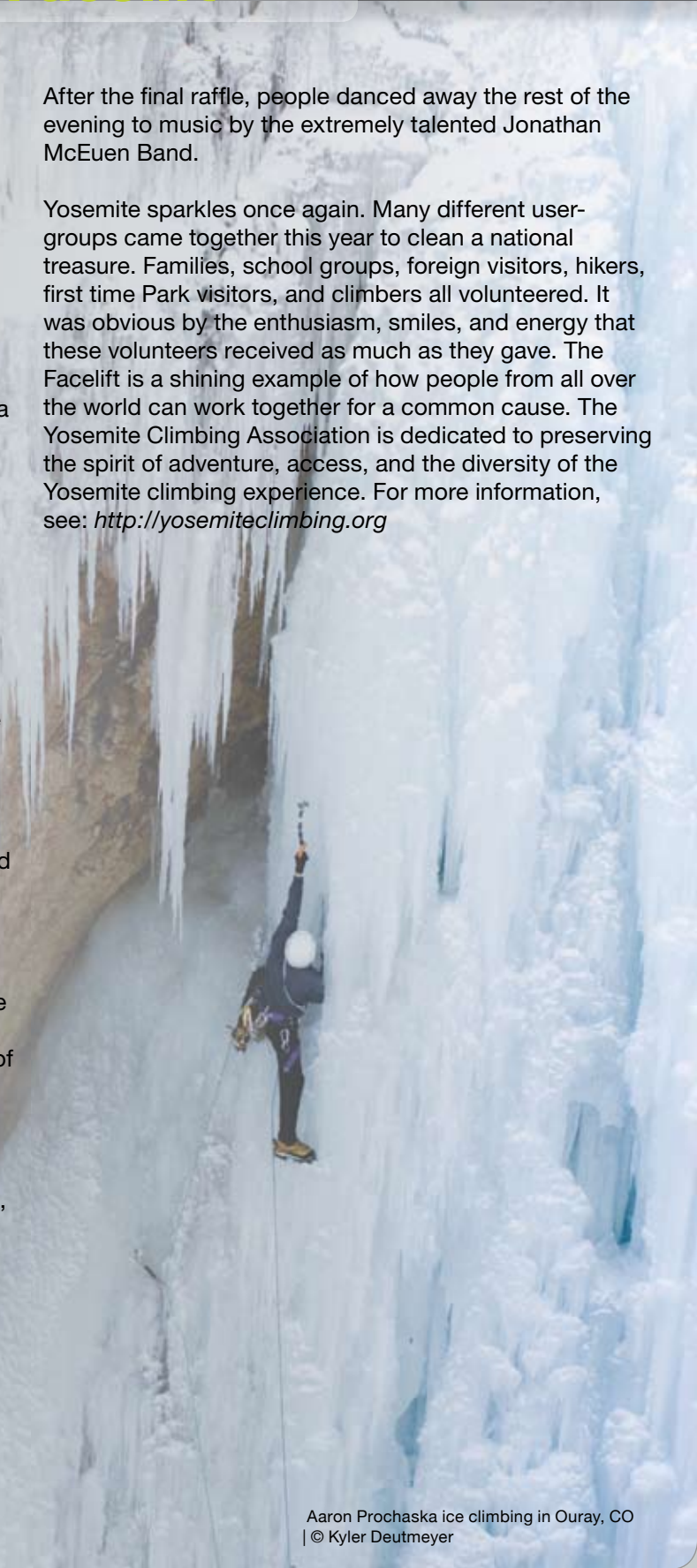
Participants cleaned up trails, roadways, river corridors, campgrounds, lodging, and housing areas, and took special care to not disrupt archeological sites. Several special projects were taken on with NPS crew leaders, one of which included the cleanup of abandoned phone lines that ran to Nevada Falls and Mirror Lake. Other special projects included cleaning up a former dumpsite in Tuolumne Meadows and loading up over 400 rusted fire rings for recycling through the generous loan of a backhoe and crew by Candelaria Corporation.

Volunteers gathered 41,631 pounds of trash and recycled two-thirds of it. Over 100 miles of trail and 80 miles of roadway were scoured. Over a 1,000 pounds of non-native plant species were removed and disposed of. Many children's groups helped with this effort, including the Yosemite Institute, the El Portal School, the Yosemite School, and a Brownie Troop from Sacramento. The children had a lot of fun and will be the future stewards of our Public Lands.

The Yosemite Climbing Association treated Facelift helpers to incredible daily raffles and evening entertainment. Slideshows were provided by Don Lauria, Glen Denny, and Dave Nettle. There was a showing of the internationally acclaimed and award winning Reel Rock Film Tour highlighting the film *The Sharp End*. Timmy O'Neil had the crowd roaring with laughter as he impersonated a talk show host with selected climbers and members of the audience. Josh Ritter, in partnership with ClifBar's Music Matters program, played a live acoustic set in a beautiful outdoor setting. During the final evening Delaware North Parks and Resorts at Yosemite served dinner to volunteers.

After the final raffle, people danced away the rest of the evening to music by the extremely talented Jonathan McEuen Band.

Yosemite sparkles once again. Many different user-groups came together this year to clean a national treasure. Families, school groups, foreign visitors, hikers, first time Park visitors, and climbers all volunteered. It was obvious by the enthusiasm, smiles, and energy that these volunteers received as much as they gave. The Facelift is a shining example of how people from all over the world can work together for a common cause. The Yosemite Climbing Association is dedicated to preserving the spirit of adventure, access, and the diversity of the Yosemite climbing experience. For more information, see: <http://yosemiteclimbing.org>



Aaron Prochaska ice climbing in Ouray, CO
| © Kyler Deutmeyer

Rocktoberfest 2008

ROCKTOBERFEST AT THE RED RIVER GORGE

By Jason Smith, Access Fund Development Director

Having never attended Rocktoberfest or even been to the Red River Gorge for that matter, I wasn't sure what to expect. Yeah I had heard all about it—tons of climbing on overhanging, pocketed walls; Ale 8; Miguel's pizza; and maybe some bourbon; all to support the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) and their purchase of the Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve. But would live up to the hype? After two-and-a-half days in Kentucky, I can safely say my experience at Rocktoberfest did not disappoint.

The climbing at the Red is immense and varied. The rock seems to be made for climbing. From slabs and arêtes to face climbs and the famous steep enduro-routes there is something for everyone. Not to mention some of the friendliest, most informative local climbers I have ever met. And best of all, there are cliffs everywhere. Some crags are developed, some not, but there is definitely a lifetime of climbing to be had in the mountains of Kentucky.

Rocktoberfest is a community celebration of everything climbing in the Red River Gorge. With camping, food, and facilities on the festival grounds and close proximity to tons of great climbing, it is as convenient as you can ask for. Climbers from all over the country came to climb, eat, listen to live music, hang out, and support the efforts of RRGCC. The crags weren't that crowded, but upon arrival at the festival venue you could see that it was packed. On Saturday evening most of the more than 600 attendees gathered under a big-top-like tent to watch climbing videos on a huge screen, listen to live music, and dance and party late into the night. The late night, however, did not deter the crowds from getting an early start the next morning. As I packed up to leave, the masses were out in full force, heading to their favorite corners of the Red River Gorge to climb again.

Thanks to all of those in attendance for your support of RRGCC and their purchase of the Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve. And Congratulations to RRGCC and everyone involved in putting on Rocktoberfest. It was a great party for a great cause, and I look forward to being there again next year. I hope to see you there.

Aaron Prochaska climbing Scarface (5.11) in Indian Creek, UT.
| © Kyler Deutmeyer



2008 Wrap-up

ADOPT-A-CRAG AND TEAMWORKS WRAP-UP

The Access Fund would like to thank everyone who participated in the 9th annual Adopt-a-Crag season. This was an incredibly successful year. Over 6,500 volunteers dedicated more than 30,000 hours to conserving climbing areas at Adopt-a-Crag events in 33 states. This year's Adopt-a-Crag Awards and TeamWorks Awards will be presented in December.

For the past nine years, Adopt-a-Crag has been the largest, national climbing community volunteer effort. Adopt-a-Crag events focus on a variety of conservation initiatives, including trail restoration, anchor replacement, and litter cleanup. These efforts show land managers that climbers respect the places they climb and are good stewards of the land. Last year alone, Adopt-a-Crag volunteers saved land managers \$585,300*.

“The climbing team got some great experience learning what it takes to maintain a climbing area they enjoy. Many of them had never lifted a pick, much less built a trail,”

Curran Lemp, **El Rito Clean-up**: hosted by Team Mojo.
Team: Stone Age Gym Team Mojo

This year many youth climbing teams from all over the nation hosted or attended Adopt-a-Crags through the Access Fund's TeamWorks program. The TeamWorks program encourages youth climbing teams throughout the nation to participate or host an Adopt-a-Crag. Each team involved competes for a cash grant/award that is contributed to their youth program. This year Adopt-a-Crag events at Little River Canyon and Boat Rock had record-breaking attendance because of participating teams.

**In 2007, the Independent Sector (www.independetsector.org) cited \$19.51 per hour as the monetary value of volunteer time.*

Todd Breitzke on Erotic States of Mind (V6) in Vedauwoo, WY.
| © Kyler Deutmeyer

Access Fund Regional Coordinator for Western Washington

AF: When did you start climbing? Where?

JH: 1994, in Joshua Tree. I had played around in a couple places before that, but J-Tree was my first real climbing experience—and my first lead all in one. After scraping to the top of some easy, gritty crack and building a train wreck of an anchor, I realized I was hooked on climbing. I dropped out of school and drove to the Pacific Northwest to climb and live out of my car for the next six months.

AF: Who were some of your early mentors?

JH: Lincoln Smith, with whom I spent endless days slogging up ice and snow, back when I was more into that kind of thing. Ian Caldwell, who opened my eyes to sport climbing and working routes, and who made me realize that there are a lot of burly climbers who aren't big names in the magazines. Ryan Triplett, who always pushed me and everyone around him to try harder.

AF: What are you presently doing for the Access Fund as a regional coordinator in Washington State?

JH: We recently finished a great TeamWorks project at Newhalem that opened a trail to an amazing overhanging, featured, clean 300-foot wall of solid gneiss. That was the culmination of years of effort negotiating with the National Park Service, with the help of our LCO affiliate the Washington Climbers Coalition, to reopen the area for new route development. Fortunately there are no major access crises going on now. I have been working on developing relationships with other organizations such as the Wilderness Society, the Washington Trails Association, and the Sierra Club.

AF: In the past 10 years, what has the AF done for you or places you like to climb?

JH: It has given me an opportunity to meet and work with a very diverse group of people on many issues, from easement disputes to negotiations with public agencies. But the most concrete example of the Access Fund's success is the reopening of Newhalem for new route development. It has unlimited potential for amazing climbing and is one of my favorite sport climbing areas. Without the Access Fund's work, it would likely have remained closed forever.

AF: What can people do to help climbing access in their areas?

JH: Find out who your local climbing organization is and send them an email. Describe any skills or interests you have and ask what you can do for them. On a day to day level, of course, we all have to practice low impact climbing and maintain friendly relationships with landowners. Finally, in Washington State anyway, don't remove all moss from boulders and routes when you are cleaning them. Only remove what you need to climb the route or problem! This is a huge visual impact and is a source of contention for land managers here.

AF: What needs to be done to motivate climbers to be more involved?

JH: Unfortunately, most people only get involved when their favorite area is threatened. Projects like Access Fund's TeamWorks have great potential because they get climbers involved before any problems begin and foster a sense of ownership in climbing areas. Of course, climbers being climbers, if a free rope was up for grabs at the end of the day, along with a keg, we would probably attract a horde of new people to access events.

Todd Breitzke) on Mavericks in Clear Creek Canyon, CO. | © Kyler Deutmeyer



Kyler Duetmeyer

Kyler Duetmeyer is a freelance photographer based in Denver, Colorado. A lifelong skier and a climber of 15 years, most of his work focuses on outdoor adventure sports and their surrounding lifestyles. In addition to capturing the action these sports are typically known for, Kyler also tries to focus on those quiet moments that help illuminate the lives of the people who are consumed by these activities.

Using both natural and artificial light, his favorite images to create are those that highlight the sometimes surreal environments in which adventure sports take place. Juxtaposing an expansive or interesting landscape with the athlete reminds the viewer that we are merely players on a very large field.

Splitting his photo projects between domestic and international locations, recent trips have taken Kyler as far away as Thailand, Laos, and India. When he's not traveling, Kyler often can be found at his home in Denver telling his dog Donkey to stop barking.

You can see more of his work at www.kylerduetmeyer.com/





ways to give

MEMBERSHIP MAKES IT HAPPEN!

The Access Fund is only as strong as its membership. With nearly 50% of our income coming from members like you, your donations make our work possible.

Each year, more than 15,000 Access Fund members, friends, affiliates, corporate partners, and volunteers give their time and financial support to keep climbing areas open and to conserve the climbing environment. The work of each of these individuals and groups can be seen throughout the country. We want to thank you for your support!

The following are several ways to a make difference today:

- Has your membership lapsed?
Renew it now!
- Gift a membership this holiday season!
•Is your climbing partner a member?
Give him/her a membership this year and share the importance of conserving climbing areas.
- Sign up as a monthly donor!
A little each month goes a long way.
- Give a memorial gift in memory of a friend or family member.
Memorialize that person's love for climbing and the outdoors.
- Does your employer match charitable gifts?
Check with human resources or finance at your workplace to see if your donation can be matched.
- Give an additional donation.
Gifts of any size help the cause!
- Spread the word. Tell your friends!

The more climbers that are members, the stronger the Access Fund is and the more resources we can dedicate to keeping climbing areas open.

For more information on ways to support the work of the Access Fund, visit our website www.accessfund.org or contact Membership Manager Courtney Bartels at courtney@accessfund.org or 303.545.6772 x 106.

CONTACT US

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F / 303.545.6774

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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.

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give the gift of access

Yep. The Holidays are just around the corner and we want to make sure you remember to get the ultimate stocking stuffer for any climber on your list right here.

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Order online at www.accessfund.org/holiday.

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- RESTOP bag system: just because a bear goes in the woods doesn't mean you should.

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- MSR original PackTowl: super absorbent and quick-drying camp towel to take on all your adventures.

While supplies last! Access Fund reserves the right to substitute products with a product of equal or greater value. Additional \$10 shipping & handling fees for non-US orders; Colorado residents will be charged sales tax.



local climbing organizations and affiliates

A local climbing organization (LCO) is an organization, association, or access committee working primarily or exclusively to keep climbing areas open, conserve the climbing environment, and promote responsible climbing. LCOs are the liaison between the climbing community and their local landmanagers and landowners. Affiliates (*) are LCOs who have joined the Access Fund Affiliate Program. If you are an LCO listed below and not an Access Fund Affiliate, please contact Amy Ansari, Grassroots Coordinator, at 303.545.6772 x105 or amy@accessfund.org.

Alabama

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Arkansas

Arkansas Climbers' Coalition*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Arizona

Arizona Mountaineering Club*
Friends of Queen Creek*
Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition*
Prescott Climbers Coalition*

California

Allied Climbers of San Diego*
California Mountaineering Group*
Cragmont Climbing Club
Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition*
Friends of Joshua Tree*
Friends of Pinnacles
Friends of Williamson Rock*
Southern Sierra Climbers Association*
Yosemite Climbing Association*

Colorado

4 Corners Climbing Coalition*
Access Colorado*
Action Committee for Eldorado*
Colorado Springs Climbers Alliance*
Flatirons Climbing Council*
Northern Colorado Climbers' Coalition*
Roaring Fork Climbers Coalition*
Western Colorado Climbers' Coalition*

Connecticut

Ragged Mountain Foundation*

DC

Mid-Atlantic Climbers*

Georgia

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Iowa

Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*

Idaho

Boise Climbers Alliance*
Kootenai Climbers*

Illinois

Chicago Mountaineering Club*
Illinois Climbers Association*

Kentucky

Friends of Muir Valley*
Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club
Boston Chapter*
Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition*

Maryland

Mid-Atlantic Climbers*

Michigan

Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition

Minnesota

Minnesota Climbers Association*

Missouri

Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri*
Kansas City Climbing Club*

Montana

Bitterroot Climbers' Coalition*
Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition

North Carolina

Boone Climbers Coalition*
Carolina Climbers Coalition*
Pisgah Climbers Association*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

New Hampshire

Rumney Climbers Association*

New Jersey

Access NJ*

New Mexico

CRAG-New Mexico*

Nevada

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council*

New York

Adirondack Mountaineering Coalition*
Gunks Climbers Coalition*

Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association*

Oklahoma

Chandler Park Climbers Coalition*
Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition*

Oregon

AAC - Oregon Section, Access Committee*
Madrone Wall Preservation Committee*
Mazamas
Smith Rock Group*

Pennsylvania

Climbing Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania*

South Carolina

Carolina Climbers Coalition*
Pisgah Climbers Association*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

South Dakota

Black Hills Climbers Coalition*

Tennessee

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Texas

Central Texas Mountaineers*
Climbers of Hueco Tanks*
Concho Valley Climbers Association*
Texas Mountaineers

Utah

Friends of Indian Creek*
Moab Area Climbers' Alliance
Northern Utah Climbers Coalition
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance*
Southern Utah Climbers' Coalition

Virginia

Friends of Great Falls Coalition*
Mid-Atlantic Climbers*
Shenandoah National Park Climbers Alliance

Vermont

CRAG-VT*
Northeastern Vermont Climbers' Alliance

Washington

Washington Climbers Coalition*

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Outdoor Access*

West Virginia

Coopers Rock Regional Climbing Coalition*
New River Alliance of Climbers*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Canada

Climbers Access Society of British Columbia*

» To contact your local LCO or to view a LCO website go to: www.accessfund.org/partners/affiliates.php

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