



SOUTHEASTERN CLIMBERS COALITION

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# Annual Report 2021



OUR MISSION

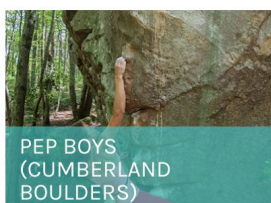
# TO PRESERVE CLIMBING FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

*The Southeastern Climbers Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving climbing areas in the southeast for future generations.*





WOODCOCK COVE



PEP BOYS  
(CUMBERLAND  
BOULDERS)



TALLULAH GORGE



SHAKING ROCK



STEELE



CHEROKEE ROCK  
VILLAGE (SAND ROCK)



PALISADES PARK



JAMESTOWN



DOGWOOD



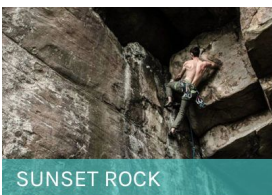
FOSTER FALLS



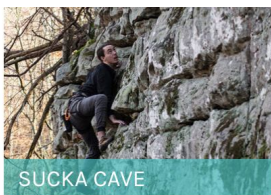
DENNY COVE



DEEP CREEK



SUNSET ROCK



SUCKA CAVE



POT POINT BOULDERS



OBED

*SCC members and volunteers are climbers from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas and elsewhere who have joined forces to preserve access to climbing areas in the region.*



HORSE PENS 40



GRIFFIN FALLS



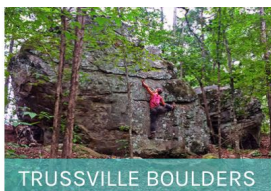
MOSS ROCK PRESERVE



HOSPITAL BOULDERS



CASTLE ROCK



TRUSSVILLE BOULDERS



YELLOW BLUFF



LITTLE RIVER CANYON



STONE FORT



LEDA



KINGS BLUFF



HELL'S KITCHEN



BUZZARD POINT



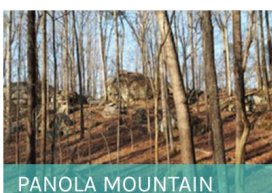
BLACK MOUNTAIN



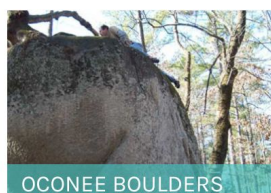
TENNESSEE WALL



BOULDERS ON OLD  
WAUHATCHIE (ST. ELMO  
BOULDERS)



PANOLA MOUNTAIN



OCONEE BOULDERS



MOUNT YONAH



ZAHND



# Letter From Our Executive Director

With 2021 coming to an end, we are taking a look back on what the SCC has accomplished not only this year, but also since its creation in 1993. Over the past four months, I had the opportunity to talk with the founders of the organization, past presidents, Executive Directors, board members, key volunteers, and staff. They shared with me their stories, contributions, struggles, and their hard earned successes.

One of the early leaders of the SCC, Brad McLeod, told me about climbers taking a stand to save Boat Rock. I read of climbers working hard, labor intensive days to prove that we are good stewards of the land at Sunset Rock in order to maintain our access there. I've learned that access to Hospital Boulders in Alabama took years to gain. Climbers across the Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia region have shared with me stories of the crag that is near and dear to them and what they have done to help protect it, and dreams of the crags that they want access to and are working hard to gain. In hearing all these success stories and dreams, it became clear that our mission is ever present in everything that we do. We are all - together - protecting climbing areas in the Southeast for future generations.

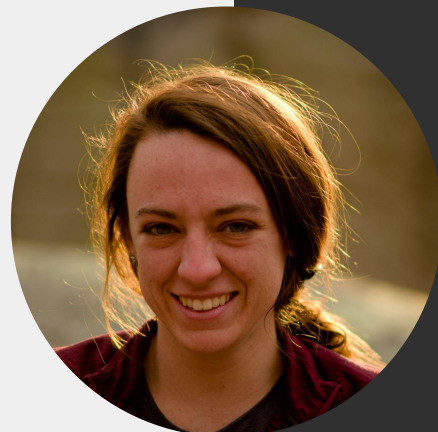
Climbing is more popular than ever, and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition is stronger than ever, and that is thanks to you. You have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, acquired 11 climbing areas, 760 acres of land, and you take care of more than 40 climbing areas. You volunteer at trail days, you host fundraisers, you come to events, you advocate, and you RALLY. You are a force to be reckoned with and are a major partner in preserving and protecting access to climbing in the Southeast. You do all this because you give a damn, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude to work alongside you all to carry out the mission of the SCC.

Working with the SCC feels like a homecoming to me. With 10 years of experience working with organizations focused on growth and building, notably during times of transition, I have been able to provide clarity, structure, and a positive, inclusive, atmosphere that moves the organization forward. The SCC staff is extremely capable and laser focused on the mission, and the Board of Directors is actively engaged in seeing the organization succeed.

There is more rock to climb, more access to gain, and more land to protect. There are also more of you than ever before - the potential collective impact we will have over the next 30 years is incredible. I hope that you continue to support and trust the SCC. We can't do it without you.

Thank you for all that you have done, and all you continue to do.

If you ever have any questions, comments, or cool stories, I hope you'll reach out and share them.







## SCC Leadership

### Board of Directors:

Jeff Mekolites, GA - Board President  
John Wiygul, TN - Treasurer  
Bob Farley, AL - Secretary  
Dominique Davis, GA  
Wes Whitaker, GA  
Kim Ranallo, TN  
Sammy Raviv, AL  
Bernard Wolfe, AL  
Dave Wilson, GA  
Chad Wykle, TN  
Laura Wyatt, TN

### Staff:

Meagan Evans, Executive Director  
  
Caleb Timmerman, Marketing  
Director  
  
Kate Hanes, Stewardship Director



# Committees

## ACQUISITIONS

Chad Wykle  
Cody Roney  
Michael O'Donnell  
Laura Wyatt  
Robert Farley

## FIXED HARDWARE

Matt Gant, Chair  
Jeff Mekolites  
Andrew Breinig  
Blake Greene  
Parker Weide  
Eric Howard  
Danny Aleksovski

## EDUCATION

Alma Baste, Co-Chair  
Dominique Davis  
Hannah Kemelmakher  
Danielle Cicka  
Eli Conlee  
Daniel West  
Mike O'Mara  
Ron Nance

## FINANCE

John Wiygul, Treasurer  
Jamie Gross  
Beth Santoro  
Janet Leung  
Joseph Goetz  
Michael O'Donnell

## EQUITABLE ACCESS

Dominique Davis, Chair  
Robert Farley  
Vicky Sinnott  
Wes Whitaker  
Brendon Belcher

# Area Reps

## GEORGIA

Jeff Gillespie  
Erick Barros  
Hannah Kemelmakher  
Jacob Smulian  
Jon Powell  
Jordan Haag  
Sabine Connors Charlie  
Fowler  
Sam Taylor  
Wes Whitaker

## ALABAMA

Harley Mathews  
Leann Hill  
Markham Tuck  
Parker Weide  
Elvis Kucevic  
Russ Timothy  
Robert Farley  
Sammy Raviv  
Scott Perkins

## TENNESSEE

Allison Stowers  
Audie Smith  
Chad Wykle  
Christian Leblanc  
David Campeotto  
Jessica Bullard  
Heath Rowland  
John Dorough  
Jon Wyatt  
Kirk Borde  
Luis Rodriguez  
Robyn Carlton



# Stewardship Report

## Trail Days

Many of our trail days are dedicated to annual maintenance and restoration work, like clearing out water bars or repairing old structures. In addition to the constant task of restoring well-loved crags, we also had the opportunity to build new trail with long term sustainability in mind. We worked to install stone steps and retaining walls where needed, self-draining trails, and design effective maps and signage to encourage best-use practices.



*Volunteers install stone steps at Woodcock Cove.*

## Let's talk about poop.

As usership at our crags increases, so has the accumulation of human waste. With a grant from the Access Fund, we installed 5 WagBag stations in 2021 at Rocktown, Deep Creek, Hospital Boulders and T-Wall (2). Since their installation, nearly 500 WAGbags have been distributed to the community.





# Stewardship Report

## Tornado Relief

A category 4 Tornado hit Boat Rock, AL in May 2021 and our community of volunteers came to the rescue. **Hundreds of volunteer hours** were poured into storm damage work - removing trees from blocking the trails and boulders, taking down hazard trees and widow makers, and dispersing brush. Since the area has been so heavily disturbed, trees have continued to come down throughout the year. It's been an ongoing process to clean-up the downed trees and brush - and the work continues. We are grateful for all of the volunteers who have helped, especially the arborists who have donated their time and skills for the trickiest of situations.





# Stewardship Report

## Anchor Maintenance Fund

The SCC supplies bolts and anchors to be distributed at no cost to SCC members to maintain *established* climbing routes in Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia. Guiding policies to implement the distribution of bolts and anchors are in place.



SCC purchased 4 complete glue-in kits and distributed them to regional volunteers in December, 2020. Demos and mentoring were provided to increase volunteer competence with 1:1 replacement for ongoing anchor replacement. Our anchor volunteer base doubled, and our anchor program grew from 2 people to a committee of 8 people who conduct monthly meetings.

*Before:*

*After:*



### December 2020 - October 2021:

- ❖ Yellow Bluff, AL - replacement on 4 routes.
- ❖ Foster Falls, TN - replacement on 4 routes
- ❖ Deep Creek, TN- anchor replacement on 2 routes
- ❖ Leda, TN - replacement work on 4 routes
- ❖ Tennessee Wall, TN - replaced lead bolts on 1 route
- ❖ Sandrock, AL - complete replacement on 7 routes
- ❖ Castle Rock, TN - replaced top anchors on 2 routes
- ❖ Bee Rocks, Monterey, TN - complete replacement on 6 routes

*If you come across a bolt that needs to be replaced, report it to [badbolts.com](http://badbolts.com)*



# Stewardship Report



Photo: Gali Du

As climbing continues to grow in popularity and more people explore the outdoors, you may notice that our areas are more crowded - and impacted. It's up to all of us to continue our legacy as stewards and responsible users of the places we love. Volunteers showed up in a big way in 2021 - putting in over 2,000 hours of scrubbing graffiti, building erosion mitigation structures, cleaning up trash and more!

**515**

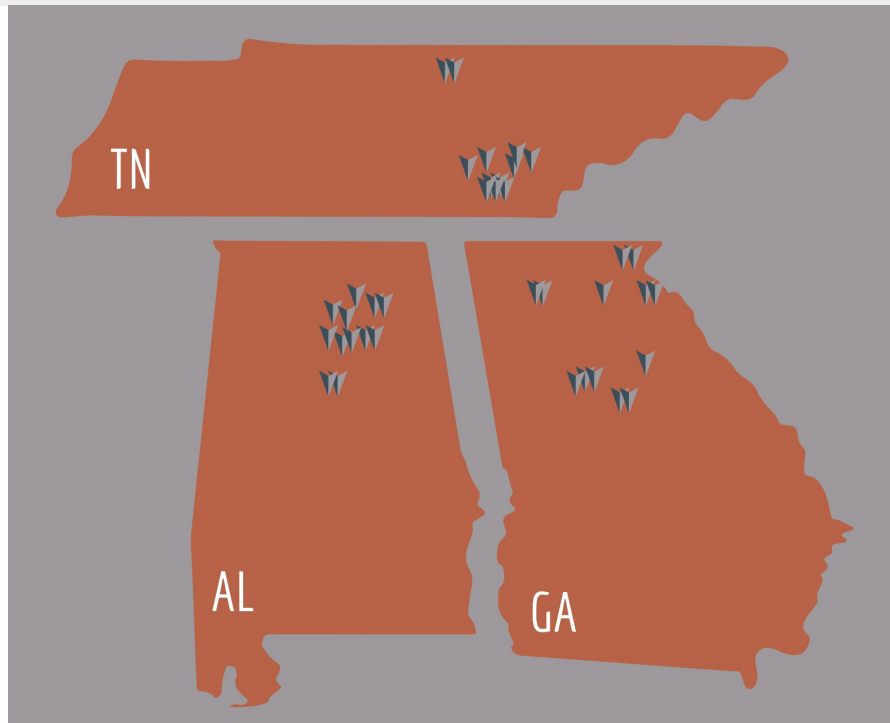
Trail Day Volunteers

**2,006**

Volunteer Hours

**56**

Regional Trail Days



**60% increase**



# Stewardship Report

## Graffiti Removal

Unfortunately graffiti still crops up at several climbing areas and we work hard to stay on top of the removal. This year we hosted 9 graffiti removal trail days to tackle ongoing issues at the following areas:

- ❖ Moss Rock x2
- ❖ Little River Canyon
- ❖ Shaking Rock
- ❖ Kings Bluff x2
- ❖ Palisades
- ❖ Currahee x2



## Project Spotlight

SCC Area Rep and Currahee Clean-up Project Founder, Sam Taylor, spearheaded a go-fund me campaign that raised nearly **\$15,000** for supplies that support ongoing efforts to clean-up Currahee. A history YouTube channel “The History Underground” took interest in Currahee’s historical significance and shared the fundraiser to his following, spurring international support for the project. We are now equipped with **15 buckets** of elephant snot, new backpack sprayers, PPE and scrub brushes as well as another user group who is invested in the stewardship of Currahee. The power of partnership is strong!



# Acquisitions and Access



## Access Success

There was no shortage of access wins and challenges in 2021. Preserving climbing access takes many different paths and what the SCC does behind the scenes varies from area to area. Working with other non-profit conservation organizations, we were able to support projects like Jakes Woods (Macon, GA) and Walden's Ridge (TN). Working with public land managers, climbers were able to get permits again at Tallulah Gorge (GA) and we're working with Georgia DNR to be able to replace anchors at Lost Wall (GA). And of course, this year we made our 11th acquisition as an organization with the purchase of Woodcock Cove.

The work of acquiring a climbing area continues after the purchase is made. Since the purchase of Woodcock Cove, we've worked with amazing partners to complete the behind the scenes work necessary to open this property to the public. We partnered with UTC's Archeology Department and Eastern band of Cherokee Nation to conduct a cultural resource assessment, Shannon Tattitch from UTC's IGT Lab to make the property maps, Scenic City Arborists and Chris Broeker on lot clearing, Scarpa for property signage, Mike Cotti and the Atlanta Climbing Club on parking lot and kiosk construction, engineer Kyle Reeves on ladder designs, Justin Bird on ladder construction, and so many more. It truly takes a village to prepare an area for access as a climber-owned, climber-managed property for generations to come.

Thank you to our acquisition partners for making all of this work possible!



Protect America's Climbing



**RIVERVIEW**  
FOUNDATION



❖ Mike Cott  
❖ Atlanta Climbing Club

❖ Ryan Nichols  
❖ Julie Reed

❖ Laura Belts & Wesley Baylock Family Fund  
❖ Crux Conditioning  
❖ Prosthetics and Orthotics Associates of TN



To date, the SCC has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, protected more than 760 acres of land, and purchased 11 climbing areas. In 2021, the final payment for Denny Cove was made and Woodcock Cove was purchased.



Photo: Nathalie Dupre



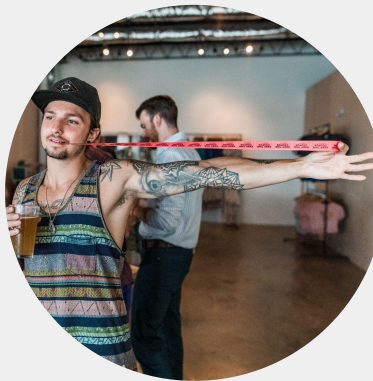
# Community



All across the southeastern region, you rally together to raise awareness and support for the SCC. 2021 was no exception. 2021 was a year for the record books, and it most certainly wouldn't have been possible without you. Thank you so much for supporting, partying and climbing with us all year long. Access to climbing comes at a cost. Protecting and gaining new access to areas is constant work, and caring for our more than 40 climbing areas is ongoing. With the help of our partners and donors, we are able to continue that work every day.



**Comps**  
**\$17,999**  
225 participants



**Summer Sike**  
**\$5,000**  
4 Locations



**BYOB**  
**\$22,503**  
7 Locations



# Community Report

## Equitable Access Scholarship

We completed our pilot year of Equitable Access Comp Scholarship. SCC received amazing support from the community in the pilot year of the Equitable Access Scholarships, raising \$1,200 to support underrepresented climbers participating in Float the Boat and The Sickness. We had 6 scholarship recipients who received free registration, a stipend to help cover transportation or equipment expenses, and mentors to facilitate their climbing experience.



## Summer Sike

Summer Sike is an opportunity for all of our community to get together and dream about the upcoming climbing season and beat the heat. 2021 provided opportunity for us to expand our Summer Sike event regionally and host 4 locations.

Atlanta - 102 attendees - \$1,400 raised  
Chattanooga - 100+ Attendees - \$2,500 raised

Huntsville - 50+ Attendees - \$1,000 raised  
Birmingham - 50 + attendees- \$800 raised



Sweetwater Brewing , Atlanta GA

Burlaep, Chattanooga TN



# Community Report

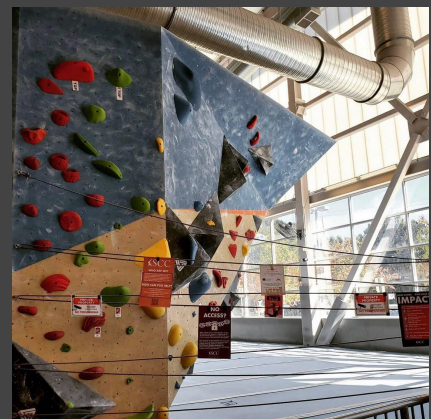
## Pint Nights

Our community loves to rally and gather to raise support and awareness for SCC and the ongoing access work in the southeastern region. All across the region, community reps, partners, and community members gather to put on a variety of pint nights throughout the year.



## BYOB takes on TAG region

For the first time ever, BYOB expanded to locations and introduced the Local Legends event. The event was a live example of what it looks like for private property to be “unlocked” by the diligent work of the SCC. The event provided opportunity for guidebook authors, developers, access heroes, and SCC leaders to address the community directly on issues facing our region.





# We couldn't do it without our event sponsors.

## Competitions

### **TITLE SPONSORS**

KAYA, City of South Fulton,  
Organic Climbing,  
Birmingham Boulders,  
Synergy Climbing & Ninja,  
Modern Woodmen of  
America (FTB), Overlook  
Boulders + Fitness

## Summer Sike

Patagonia  
Gnarly Nutrition  
Organic  
Sweetwater

### **HOSTS**

Birmingham  
Boulders  
Sweetwater  
Burlaep Apparel  
Highpoint

## BYOB

### **TITLE SPONSORS**

Organic, Rock Creek, High Point

### **HOSTS**

Macon Rocks, New Orleans  
Boulder Lounge, Overlook,  
Gadrock, Stone Summit,  
Birmingham Boulders, Onsite  
Rock Gym

## SCC is growing!



**MEMBERS 900 +**

**INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS 10,000 +**



**FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS 8,000 +**

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS 5,000 +**





# Take a stand.



## Conservation Legacy

*The Conservation Legacy Program is built on the foundation that the Southeastern Climbers Coalition saves special places, places specifically for rock climbers. Conservation Legacy donors will know their donation goes toward preserving those special places into perpetuity. Thank you to each of our donors who are protecting climbing areas for future generations. Thanks to our partnership with local legends at Ground Up Sales, donors receive gifts from Rab, Scarpa and Petzl.*

### **Climbing Protector – \$1,500 +**

Kenton and Amy Brown, Doug Porter, Laura Veltz and Wesley Blaylock, Alessandro Mazza, Adam Johnson

### **Crag Saver – \$1,000**

Thaddeus Gilliam, Hugh Smith

### **Route Warrior – \$500**

Ed & Vickie Park, Tom Saab

### **Donors:**

Greg Allen Memorial Fund, Tim Tow, Johnny O'Brien, Julie Reed



# Grants Awarded

## Access Fund

- ❖ Educational Film
- ❖ Climbing Conservation Grant
- ❖ Anchor Fund 2020 Glue-in Kits

## American Alpine Club

- ❖ Cornerstone Grant
  - Updating SCC property signage

## REI Co-op

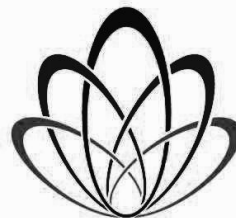
- ❖ Critical infrastructure at Woodcock Cove

## Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga

- ❖ Equitable Access



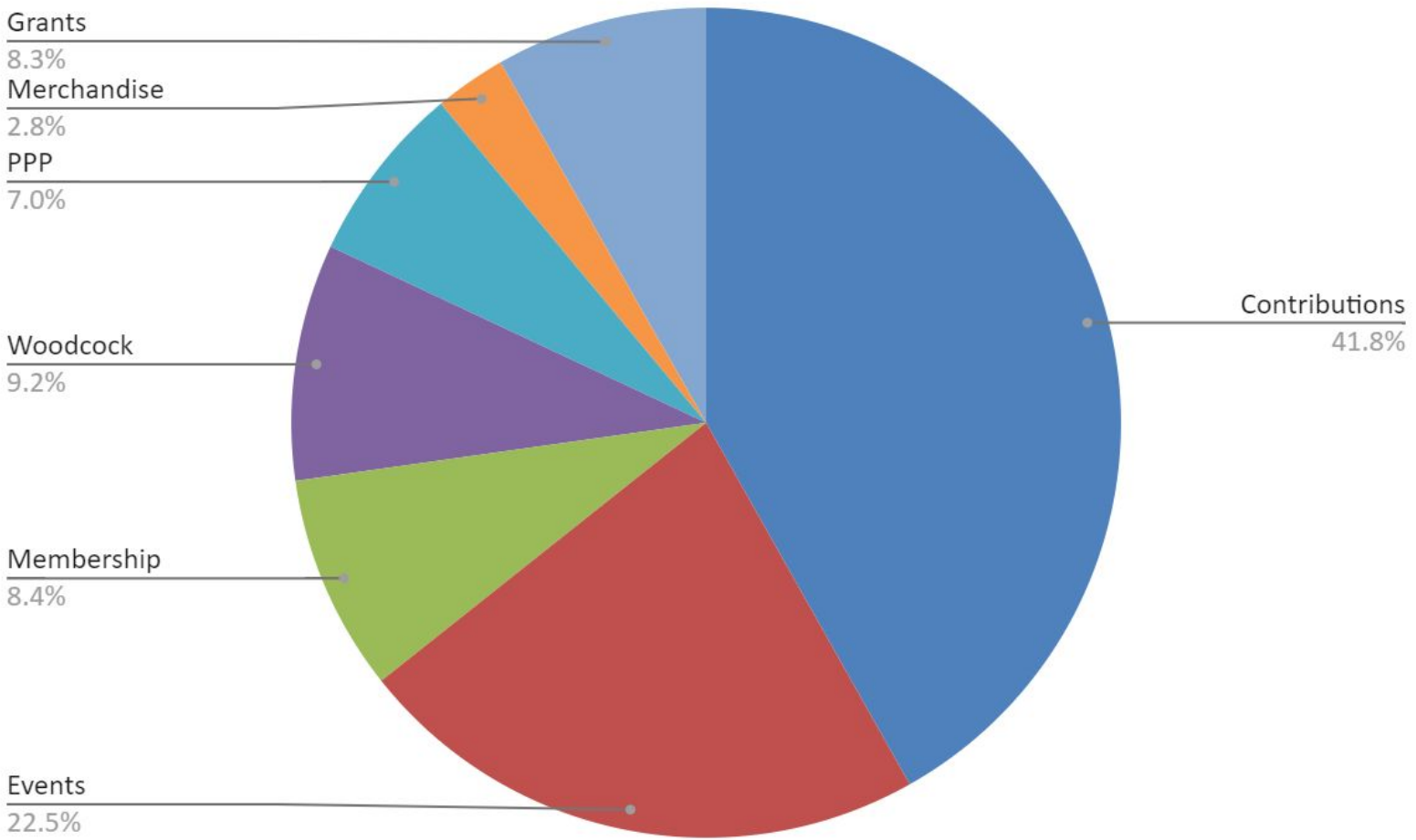
Protect America's Climbing



Community  
Foundation  
of Greater  
Chattanooga



# Financial Report

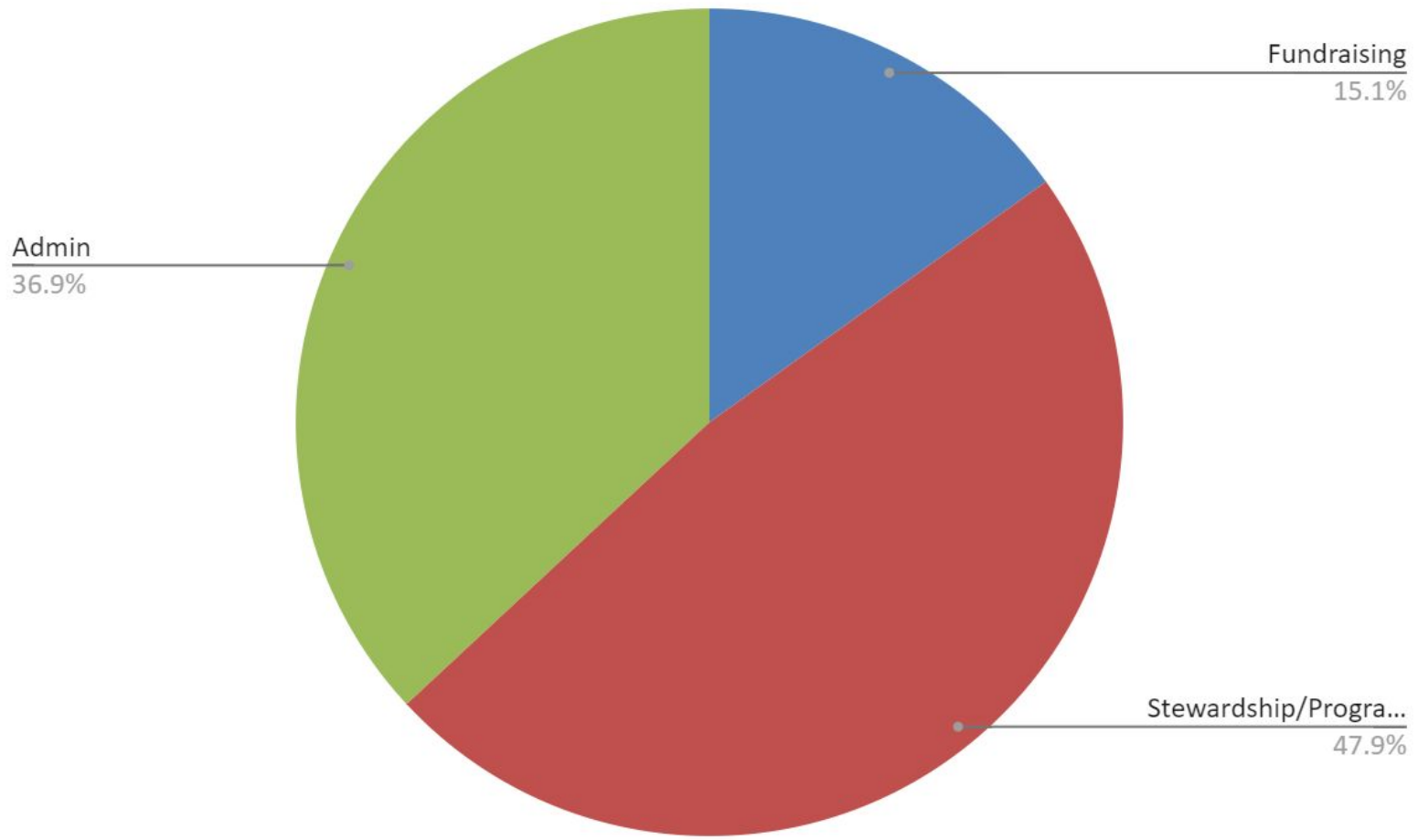


\$202,151.92

REVENUE



# Financial Report



\$177,663.13

EXPENSES





# Looking Ahead

Our community is growing, climbing is more popular than ever, and our areas are seeing more traffic than ever.

In 2021, the SCC staff met for the first annual strategic planning meeting.

The purpose was to determine the priorities of the SCC over the next fiscal year. We looked back on the last 30 years in order to make investments and infrastructure to withstand the next 30 years. We are excited to share our 2022 plans with our community.



# Looking Ahead

During our planning retreat, we reaffirmed that our mission is ever present in everything we do. We identified our core values, organization objective, and strategic anchors that will guide our work.

## Mission:

To preserve climbing areas in the southeast for future generations.

## Core Values

- ◆ Give a damn.
- ◆ Rally.

## Objective:

We protect, acquire, advocate for, and manage climbing areas in the TAG region by educating and rallying our public, establishing community connection, and maintaining relationships with land managers.





# Looking Ahead



## Strategic Anchors

- ❖ Build sustainable infrastructure
- ❖ Initiate and cultivate key relationships
- ❖ Increase opportunities for giving
- ❖ Tell our story

Guided by our mission, core values, objective and anchors, we have identified quarterly goals, objectives, and standard operating procedures to keep the processes we put in place in 2022 functioning for future generations.





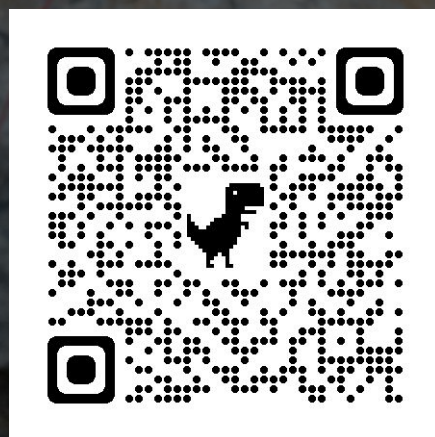
*Thank you to all of our members, volunteers, donors, partners, and sponsors.  
Together we are able to protect thousands of climbs and hundreds of acres  
for future generations.*







What can YOU do?



VOLUNTEER | BECOME A MEMBER | DONATE



*Photo: Nathalie Dupre*