

# Southeastern Climbers Coalition

2012

Annual Report

## Our Mission

The Southeastern Climbers Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving climbing access in the southeast. SCC members and volunteers are climbers from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Arkansas and elsewhere who have joined forces to preserve access to climbing areas in the region. The SCC incorporated the non-profit entity the Southeastern Climbers Coalition Land Trust, Inc. ("SCCLT"), the holding company for acquired climbing lands. Monies received raised by the SCC work to fund SCCLT purchases and also provide maintenance and upkeep of the land. The property presently held by the SCCLT is Boat Rock Preserve, GA (12.3 acres); and Kings Bluff, TN. (9.78 acres) and

## Staff

Michael Wurzel, Executive Director  
Cody Roney, Development Director

## Board of Directors

Mattrew Gant, President  
Gus Fontenot, Vice President  
Josh Reyes, Secretary  
Will Eccleston, Treasurer  
Chad Wykle  
Jeremy Boydston  
Kirk Brode  
Michelle Connell  
Dave Wilson  
Whitney Boland  
Jebb Orr

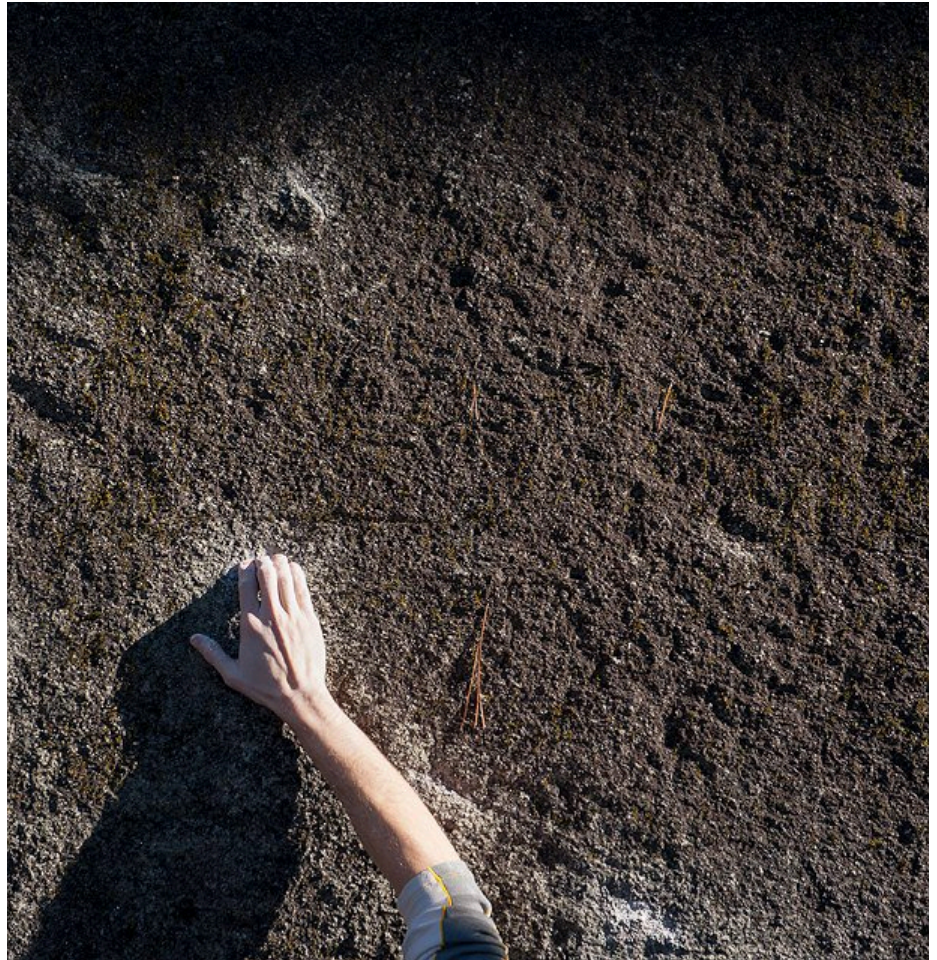


Photo by: Mandy Roden Photography

## Glancing Back, 2012

The Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC) is dedicating to preserving climbing in the southeast for future generations to enjoy. 2012 was especially eventful not only because of the crag purchases, trail days and direction the origination took but also because of you – SCC members, donors, sponsors and supporters. You help direct our success through your memberships, your donations, your participation at trail days and special events and, most of all, your support. 2013 will mark our 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, but before we get ahead of ourselves, let's look back at how we made 2012 memorable.

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Pictured here: Members and volunteers take a break at the Hospital Boulders Trail Day. Trail days are just one of many ways the SCC preserves climbing areas for future generations.

## New Part-time Staff Adds Focus to SCC



### **Michael Wurzel Executive Director**

Originally from Franklin, Tenn., Wurzel is a Chattanooga transplant. While attending Sewanee College, Michael fell in love with the climbing and the Cumberland Plateau region. In 2010, he moved to Chattanooga to pursue a Masters in Environmental Science. Wurzel brings experience in land management, trail building, and nonprofit work to the SCC.

Contact [Michael](#)



### **Cody Roney, Development Director,**

Originally from Scottsboro, Ala., Roney started working with the SCC Partners Program in 2011, helping to maintain contact, build relationships, and fundraise with our partners. She holds a Masters in Nonprofit Management from University of Tennessee Chattanooga, which will allow her to bring new ideas and concepts to the management of the SCC.

Contact [Cody](#)

## SCC Acquires Hospital

*With the Help of the Access Fund, the SCC purchased Hospital Boulders in late 2012, a move that had been in the making for years*

**Hospital Boulders** is located just north of Gadsden in Northeastern Alabama. The name had been whispered among the climbing community for years and called a Southeastern gem holding nearly 200 high quality sandstone boulder problems with more potential for first ascents. However, access has been “low profile” with little to no details distributed only by word of mouth.

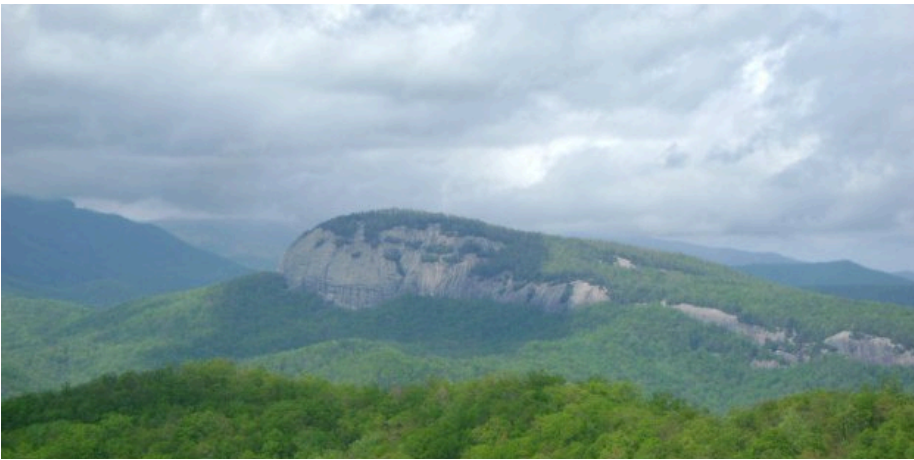
Then, five years ago, the land showed up for auction; the SCC jumped to make a move but was outbid putting access out of climbers’ hands. So in 2012 when the land went up for auction a second time, the SCC had to react fast.

“The threat of losing the area to another private landowner or developer was very real,” says Josh Reyes, SCC board member. “We did not want to be sent back to square one with access negotiations, facing the very real possibility of having access permanently revoked.”

With the help of The Access Fund, who provided a bridge loan of \$75,000 from the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC), the SCC successfully financed the acquisition. The purchased marks the twelfth successful AFLCC project and the seventh successful acquisition by the SCC.

While the initial steps have taken place, there is still a long road ahead. The SCC has raised over \$14,000 of the total \$80,000 purchase in just a few months of effort.

“But let’s not lose steam,” says Cody Roney, SCC Development Director, “we have made huge steps already. If we stay focused, the SCC is well on its way to paying off the land with the help of our generous, devoted members.”



## The Big 2-0 – Looking Forward To 2013

Bring out the birthday hat – in 2013 the SCC is turning 20. That’s right, the big 2-0. To celebrate, the SCC is launching a campaign to increase reach, membership and overall sustainability by setting some ‘13 goals. Here’s what the SCC hopes to achieve:

The SCC aims to grow membership from 400 to 2,000 people through special memberships drives and specials offered through 2013. Interested in becoming a member and not yet one? [Join the SCC.](#)

The SCC aims to see its two part-time staff members go full-time through grants. To stay up to date, check in with [SCC news.](#)

The SCC aims to solidify access to different areas. The organization is currently working with the city to secure climbing on Signal Mountain. See the list of [SCC owned and managed areas.](#)

In 2012, the SCC purchased Hospital Boulders with the help of an Access Fund loan. The SCC challenges its members to help raise at least \$30,000 in 2013 to go towards paying off the purchase. To donate, visit the [SCC donation page.](#)

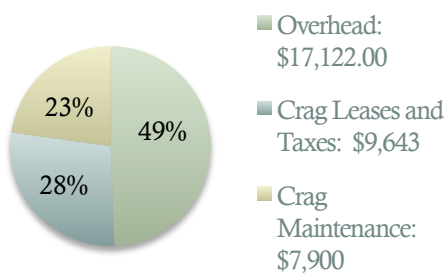
The SCC is dedicated to fostering more partnership with our high-level donors in 2013. For more information, contact [Cody Roney.](#)

The SCC aims to maximize the effect of trail days by increasing the number of supported trail days and work done (impact). To participate, find event on the [SCC Calendar.](#)

Become a member at [www.seclimber.org](http://www.seclimber.org)

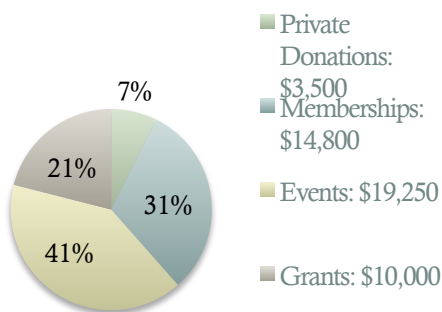
## Where SCC Money Goes

**Total Expenses:**  
**\$34,645**



The SCC runs its operations efficiently. We have no office, so overhead stays low. With very little overhead, the SCC can focus its funding on its mission-driven initiatives, namely, crag leases and taxes, and crag maintenance and trail days to help preserve climbing for future generations to enjoy. The SCC holds 20+ trail days a year.

**Total Income:**  
**\$37,550**



In 2012, the SCC brought in over \$37,550 from donations, memberships, events and grants – this amount is growing every year. 2012 was especially good because of our purchase of Hospital Boulder – a move years in the making – and the addition of two part-time paid staff, helping to focus our efforts.



Help out the efforts of the SCC by buying swag at the SCC Swag Store. To see what’s in stock, please visit the [SCC Swag Store](#) online.

Photo (left) by Nathalie DuPre'; Photo (above) by Sean Cobourn



An October Tremont Tavern Fundraiser brought in nearly \$1,200. Tremont donated half of its Sweetwater sales for the evening towards the SCC.

# Events and Trail Days

*How the SCC fulfills its mission to preserves climbing in the Southeast, connects to the community and gives back*

In 2012, the SCC hosted over 20 trail days. These trail days are designed to help preserve the natural resources of the climbing areas in the Southeast. Activities include trail building and maintenance, tree planting, trash collecting, erosion control and other activities that help keep climbing in our prized lands sustainable. Trail days include: Castle Rock, Fosters Falls, Stone For and many others. To get involved or check out the calendar to see when the next trail day is scheduled, please visit the [SCC Calendar of Events](#).

The SCC also hosts various events throughout the year, which include fundraisers, comps, pint night, and other events to support the mission of the SCC. To host or volunteer fore an event or see what's coming to your region, please check out the [SCC calendar](#), [SCC news](#) or contact [Cody Roney](#).

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A special thank you to our 2012 sponsors:

